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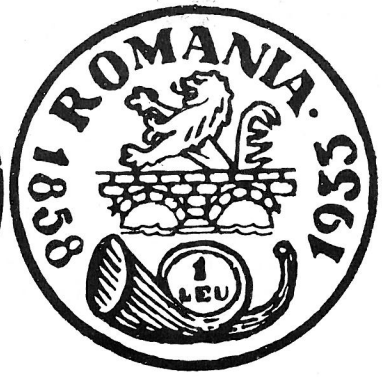
Originals and Counterfeits of The "First Moldavian Stamps 75th Anniversary" Issue

George Pataki

ORIGINAL



COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

On Nov. 20, 1932, on the 75th anniversary of the first Moldavian stamps, the EFIRO Philatelic Exhibition opened in Bucharest. For this occasion, a souvenir sheet (Scott #B40) and a set of commemorative stamps (Scott #421-427) were issued. The set of seven stamps was printed in Bucharest at the Stamp Printing Works, on watermarked, white paper. They are imperforate, as were the Moldavian stamps they commemorate. The printing was 200,000 sets.

The watermark is of type XIII, per the classification adopted in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 (Scott Wmk. 230). It was introduced in 1931 and it is known in four positions. On this set the watermark is generally found in position 3 (sideways with top to left - when viewed from the stamps reverse side, with the exception of the 25 Bani and 3 Lei values which sometimes are also found in position 4 (turned to right). Each sheet has 50 stamps; 5 rows, each with 10 stamps, with wide (23 mm.) margins all around.

All values, except the 25 Bani, have been counterfeited.

According to Petre Murea ("Istoricul Timbrelor Postale Romanesti," page 227), the wide margins were used to print those counterfeit stamps which are on genuine watermarked paper.

All the stamps have a coat-of-arms, a postal horn as the symbol of the postal service, the denomination in the horn's loop and the text: "1858 ROMANIA 1933." Besides these general characteristics each stamp has its own design.

25 Bani, black:

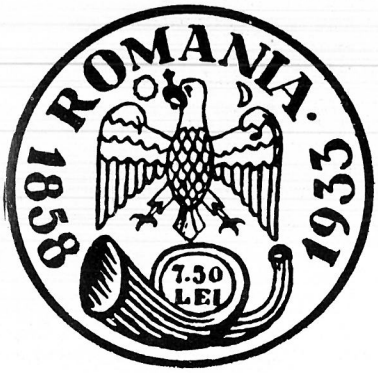
This resembles Scott #5, issued in 1858. Rectangular with rounded corners, it shows a bison head with a six-pointed star above, the coat-of-arms of Moldavia, Bessarabia and Bucovina.

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT



ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

ORIGINAL

COUNTERFEIT

1 Lei, violet:
Circular in shape, it displays the coat-of-arms of Banat province - a rampant lion over a brick bridge.

2 Lei, green:
This circular stamp displays the coat-of-arms of Dobrudja province - two dolphins.

3 Lei, carmine rose:
Likewise circular, this value features the coat-of-arms of Transylvania - an eagle over seven fortresses.

6 Lei, red brown:
Rectangular with bevelled corners, in its center is what was the coat-of-arms of the kingdom of Romania at that time.

7.50 Lei, light blue:
Another round stamps, this depicts the coat-of-arms of Walachia: an eagle with spread wings.

10 Lei, dark blue:
It is circular and again has the bison head; the emblem of Moldavia, Bessarabia and Bucovina.

The drawings of the six original and six counterfeited stamps of this set (the 25 Bani stamp was not counterfeited) shown here were done by Gustav Noska and published in "Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane," Nos. 2, 4-5 and 6 of 1939.

Noska claims that the counterfeiters took sheets of genuine 25 Bani stamp, chemically removed the printing, and then remaining with authentic watermarked paper, proceeded to print higher value counterfeit stamps. Furthermore, he states that counterfeits were also made on unwatermarked paper on which forged watermarks were applied using paraffin. These "watermarks" are simplistic - badly drawn crowns, without the monograms. They are better visible on the backs of the stamps (where they were applied) than on the front and they have the characteristic luster of the paraffin.

Dr. A. Schroeder of Berlin, in "Schach den Falschungen" states that the three most frequently found cancellations on the counterfeits are: that of the EFIRO exhibition, one with "BUCURESTI" and one with mostly illegible text of which only "CURSA," on the bottom, can be made out.

We caution readers that stamps not resembling the counterfeits presented above which also do not match the characteristics of the originals should be considered counterfeits. When more than one counterfeit or forgery has been produced of a certain stamp, describing only one of them could be misleading.

Postal Markings of The Bucharest Gara de Nord, 1873 to 1947

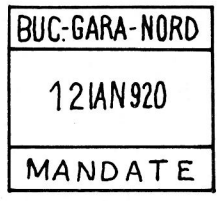
Continued from vol. 4, no. 1, 1980.

Don Heller, 206 W. Fairmont Ave., State College, PA 16801

Rectangular Manual Postmarks

The following miscellaneous items include a postmark of the money order office (54), two registration labels (55, 56), and the AMB and TREN markings of the railway ambulant office (57, 58).

54. BUC.-GARA-NORD/MANDATE, rectangle 27 mm horizontal, 24½ mm vertical, date in center, letters 3¼ mm. Only date seen in 12 January 1920, in blue (coll. Bell).

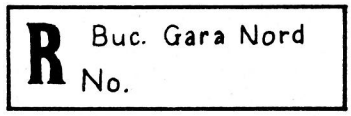


54

55. R/BUCURESTI GARA DE NORD/NO., rectangle 53 mm horizontal, 14 mm vertical. Only examples seen is on a cover dated May 1915 (coll. Bell).

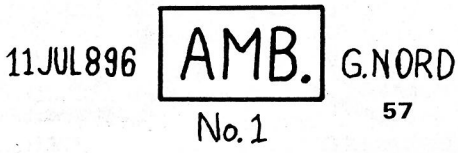
55

56. (paper label) **R/BUC. GARA NORD/No.,** R in red, remainder in black, white paper, rectangle 45 mm horizontal, 14 mm vertical. Only example seen is on a cover dated 25 April 1916.



56

An earlier usage of registration labels is indicated by an "1895 cover to Munich, stamps tied by BUCURESCI/GARA DE NORD cds, accompanied by Registration ettiquete of the railway station" (Rigby Postal History Auctions, 18 January 1972, lot 1102). I have not seen this item.



57

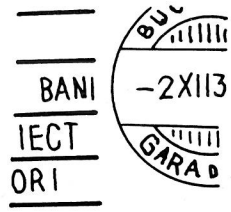
57. AMB. G. NORD. Two types have been seen (both coll. Bell):
a) rectangle 12mm vertical, G. NORD letters 3 mm, a partial strike on Scott 126, issue of 1893;
b) rectangle 13 mm vertical, G. NORD letters 4 mm, a partial strike on Scott 155, issue of July 1900.
The item described as "1896-97 5 b., 10 b. postal cards, one with 11 JUL 96/AMB/G. NORD/No. 1 two line strike, used as cancellation" (Rigby Postal History Auctions, 4 April 1964, lot 739) was used in conjunction with similar marks from other railway stations to create the illustration shown here. The illustration is only suggestive, not definitive, as I have not seen a complete strike from Gara de Nord.

58. Not seen, but items described as "1904-06 cards, stamps tied by straight line date/**TREN/NORD** railway date stamp" were in Rigby Postal History Auctions, 9 June 1971, lot 1183. The text should probably read **TREN/G. NORD,** and the full mark should be similar to type 57.

19

24.5

31.5



48.5

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

In part 1 (vol 3, no. 3 1979), the listing for types 9, 11, 19 and 22 should be revised as follows:

9. Late - 1 November 1898.

11. Late - 11 October 1894.

19. BUCURESTI - G. NORD/MANDATE, double circles 26/16 mm, date in bridge, grille, letters 2 1/2 mm. Early - January 1913. Late - 3 January 1916. (For another postmark of the money order office, see type 54.)

22. Early - 9 January 1916 (coll. Pataki). Late - 26 April 1916.

The following new types are to be added to part 1:

24.5 GARA DE NORD/...ENTELOR, double circles 31/18 mm, date in partial bridge, grille, DE in smaller letters (2 1/2 mm) than others (3 mm). Only date seen is a partial strike of 16 July 1919, in blue.

31.5 ?/GARA DE NORD/ZIARE, single circle 29 mm, date in bridge. Only date seen is a partial strike of March 1940.

Through a printer's oversight, the figures in part 2 (vol. 4, no. 1, 1980) were unnumbered. On each page, from top to bottom, they are (p. 12) types 35, 36, 39, 38, 37, 40; (p. 13) varieties of type 41, types 41 through 46; (p. 14) types 47 through 52.

The following new type is to be added to part 2:

48.5 BUCURESTI/GARA DE NORD, double circles 26/18 mm, date and probably hour in bridge, grille, DE in smaller letters (2 mm) than others (2 1/2 mm). Five or six horizontal lines and slogan. Probably continuous type. Only date seen is 2 December 1939, a partial strike on Scott 482, issue of April 1939, as illustrated.

ERRORS OF THE ORADEA—1919 OVERPRINTED STAMPS

Dr. Eng. Marcel Sapira,

Sos. Oltenitei No. 73, bl. 5, et. 2, apt. 10, 77504 Bucharest, Romania.

While the Cluj-1919 issue (with the exception of the "Floods" stamps) are characterized by numerous errors-almost every sheet has errors - the Oradea-1919 issues exhibit only two catalogue listed errors. Despite the abundance of printing varieties, type style varieties, etc. the major catalogues mention only the "inverted i in Bani" error on two values of the "Parliment" stamps: 75 Bani and 80 Bani (Fig. 1). These appear in sheet position 89 (row IX, column 9). The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 wrongly states that the "inverted i in Bani" error on the 75 Bani stamp is on position 12. These errors are listed in Zumstein but not listed in Scott.

Fig. 1

The Oradea-1919 issue had two printings and utilized a total of 15 different sheet types (Harvesters, Karl, Zita, Postal Savings, etc.) including two of the "Parliament" design. This issue was overprinted with the value starting with a capital letter followed by small, cursive letters. The Cluj-1919 issue was overprinted only with capital letters. Only the 75 and 80 Bani stamps were overprinted during the first printing but the second printing included all three Parliament values. The "inverted i in Bani)) error was discovered after the first printing and corrected before the second began. Therefore, this error cannot exist in the 50 Bani stamp as some philatelists believe. The total number of such errors produced corresponds with the number of sheets overprinted in the first printing:
3434 of the 75 Bani
319 of the 80 Bani.

The overprint's monogram of position 89 of the Oradea-1919 issue is similar to the one in postion 98 (rox X, column 8) of the Cluj-1919 issue. The following is a list of distinguishing characteristics of the monogram on original stamps (see "Errors of the Cluj-1919 Overprinted Stamp," Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 4/1979, for notations):

Break on the outside segment 3, under the letter "I" and "E" in "ROMANIEI."

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

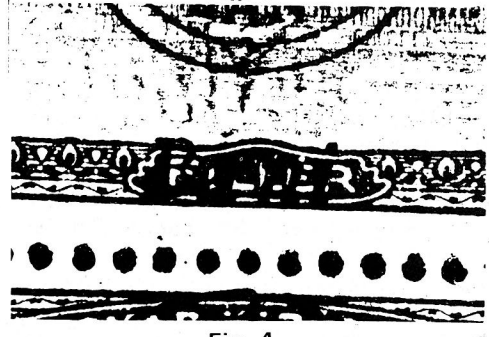


Fig. 4

Two large breaks on the inside and on the outside of segment 5, near the star; the inside break is larger and has a "hook."

Two breaks on the outside segment 6, on both sides of "G" in "REGATUL."

The printing type used for the Oradea-1919 issue is fine and clearly displays the above characteristics. In some cases the type is extremely fine, especially on the 80 Bani value.

Many other errors exists in the Oradea-1919 issue, but these are not considered major. The sheets with the "inverted i in Bani" error thus also show these (minor) errors:

"B3ni": the left part of the letter "a" of "Bani" is missing, creating a character resembling a "3" or even an "i" (Fig. 2). This variety occurs in position 15 (row II, column 5).

"Ban i": a variety similar to that of the Cluj-1919 issue, the space between the "n" and "i" is greater than usual (Fig. 3). Found in positions 17, 18, 64 and 75, the "longest" overprint is that of position 18.

"Ba ni": this variety with wider spacing between "a" and "n" is found in position 86 (row IX, column 6) (Fig. 4).

This is by no means a complete listing of the errors of the "Bani" overprint. Others exist, such as the large "B" (22 times throughout the sheet), the broken "B", the legless "a", etc. The whole overprint also can be found "abklatsch" (offset), inverted, shifted or double. While, definition of such "errors" or "varieties" is to a large degree dependent on the philatelists's view of what constitutes an error as well as his collecting fancy, I believe there are still many that should be mentioned.

REVIEW: **CATALOGUL PRIMEI EXPOZITII REPUBLICANE DE MARCOFILIE, PLOIESTI 1979.**

(Catalogue of the First National Exhibition of Postal Markings, Ploiesti 1979).

This 72 page exhibition catalogue is a valuable work for the researcher or specialized collector. Following the listing of all the dignitaries involved in organizing this exhibition, as well as the members of the jury and the regulations of the exhibition, are several interesting articles: "The Study of Postal Markings - a New Branch in Philately" by Ioan Manole, "Romanian Special Cancellations in the Modern and Contemporary Periods" by Dr. Valeriu S. Neaga, "Postal Markings of the City of Ploiesti" by Toma G. Comanescu and "Postal Markings in a Philatelic Collection" by Stefan Stefanescu. Dr. Luiza Seche compiled a very useful "Short Dictionary Concerning Postal Markings" and Mihail Popovici presents an excellent "Bibliography of Romanian Philatelic Publications and Articles Published in Romania and Abroad on Romanian Postal Markings."

A listing of the 104 exhibits of postal markings, with the name of the exhibitors and county of their residence, is also included.

CORRECTIONS

In No. 1/1980 several errors slipped in: On page 5, the illustrations of the 2+8 Lei stamps, "Original" and "Counterfeit" are reversed. Furthermore, the following sentence should be added: "These illustrations were drawn by Gustav Noska of Bucharest and published in "Revista Societatii Filatelice Romane," nos. 11 and 12 of 1938."

In "Postal Markings of the Bucharest Gara de Nord, 1873 to 1947" by Don Heller, numbers identifying the illustrations (35-52) are missing. They can be inserted after properly identifying the illustrations by using the text.

Page 15 should have been titled: Romanian Rarities Offered at the Oct. 10, 1979, Roger Koeber Auction."

We apologize for these errors and from now on will do a second proofreading before the start of printing.

Tapling Medal Award For Romanian Articles

Our distinguished member, **Gabriel Sassower** of London, England, was recently awarded the TAPLING medal, by the ROYAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN. His articles on Romania, published in Vol. 87-88 of the 1978-79 earned it for him. These writings are based on his paper, read before the Society on January 5, 1978. This is very pleasing to us, as, in its long history, this is only the second time the Royal has awarded this medal for studies published concerning Romania. The first recipient was W. Dorning Beckton (one of the past Presidents), in 1921, for his studies relating to the 1866-72 lithographed issue.

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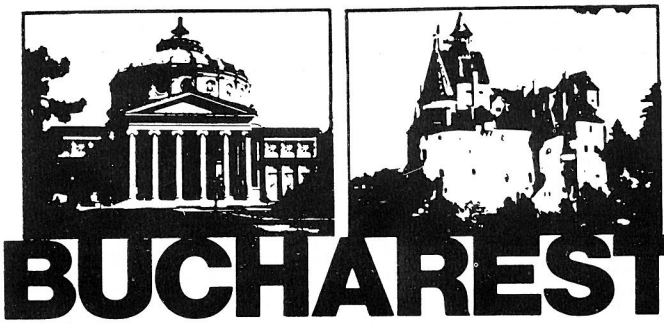

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The 1869 Prince Carol Issue Part I: The Three Lower Values

Dr. L. N. Cristea, Tengstrasse 20, Apt. 304, Munich 40, West Germany

The 1869 Prince Carol issue -5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 Bani - was the first available for prepayment of either internal or external postage. The country had concluded its first postal agreements, putting an end to 'some' of the foreign postal services, which had handled mail for abroad (See "The 1868 Issue", Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3/1979). I emphasize the word 'some,' because recent research proves that river posts on the Danube (DDSG, Austrian Lloyd and Obshchestvo Chernomorska-Dunaiskago Parokhodstva) continued a long time after the agreements with Russia (1857) and Austria (1869) came into being.

Known as the INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, the five stamps first came into use on April 1, 1869. Prince Carol himself posted at the Central Post Office in Bucharest, the first ordinary and first registered letters for abroad. These were addressed to his family in Germany, and franked with the new stamps.

It remains to be discovered how these letters reached their destination in Bavaria, given the fact that the convention with the "German Confederation" did not come into force until July 1, 1869 (See "Revista Telegraf si Posta" 1869, page 199).

Fig. 1

These top corner ornaments necessarily vary for different values because of the differing lengths of the values expressed in letters. Left and right of the effigy appear "POSTA" and "ROMANA," in slightly curved spandrels superimposed on a Greek ornamental line.

Colors and Printing:

The printer once again used the three national colors - red for the 15 Bani, yellow for the 5 Bani and blue for the 10 Bani - for the low values, and a combination of the same colors for the top values - blue and yellow for the 25 Bani and red and blue for the 50 Bani. The top values required two separate printing operations, one for each color: first the frame and then the effigy.

The lithographer, for some unknown reason, abandoned the use of the transfer block of 8 stamps as utilized for the 1868 issue and adopted a smaller one of 4, arranged horizontally - 1 2 3 4.

The make up of the printing stone, 100 stamps, was not simplified, and once more it was necessary to annex transfers to the right (zone "A") and the bottom (zone "B") of the sheet.

From research done so far, we can conclude that the three lower values were printed from three types of stones (Fig. 2).

The annexed transfers (zones "A" and "B"), to the right and below the main core of the printing stone allow us to identify the type of stone used, the number of printing stones used and to establish the sequence of printing and colors.

New Postal Rates:

Postal regulations were prepared in accord with international conventions concluded with other countries. These should have come into force on January 1, 1869, but Parliamentary procedures of foreign countries delayed their application until April 1, 1869 in case of Austria-Hungary, and July 1, 1869 in that of the German Confederation.

The rates agreed on were:

Ordinary letters (15 gr) for abroad	50 Bani
Ordinary letters (15 gr) for adjoining countries	25 Bani
Printed matter or samples (40 gr) for abroad	5 Bani

These rates for foreign mail are not in doubt, but uncertainty reigns as to the interim internal rates, because regulations concerning these were not approved by the Government until October 15, 1870.

According to these regulations, internal rates were as follows:

Ordinary letters (15 gr)	10 Bani
Drop letters (15 gr)	5 Bani
Registration fee	30 Bani
Printed matter, samples, etc. (40 gr)	3 Bani

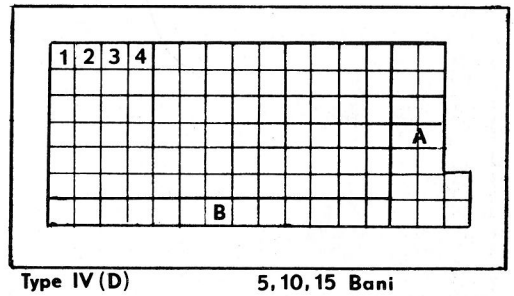
This rate had already been placed in effect in May 1870, by a circular of the postal authorities.

Newspapers (40 gr)	1½ Bani
Postman's delivery charge paid in cash	2 Bani.

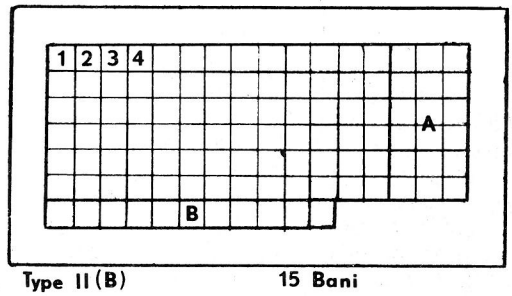
Designs:

As can be seen (Fig. 1) they maintained the same head of the Prince as previously, but the circular frame was abandoned in favor of an oval. A color dot on the bust line - about 2/5 of the way up from the bust point - can be observed on the 5, 10 and 15 Bani values. The same color dot is also present on the first printing of the 50 Bani value.

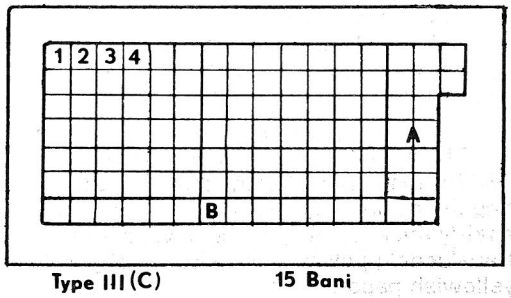
The frame design is changed. The value is indicated in figures on both sides of the bottom spandrel containing the word "BANI," and again is spelled out in the top spandrel, between two corner ornaments.



Type IV (D) 5, 10, 15 Bani



Type II (B) 15 Bani



Type III (C) 15 Bani

Fig. 2

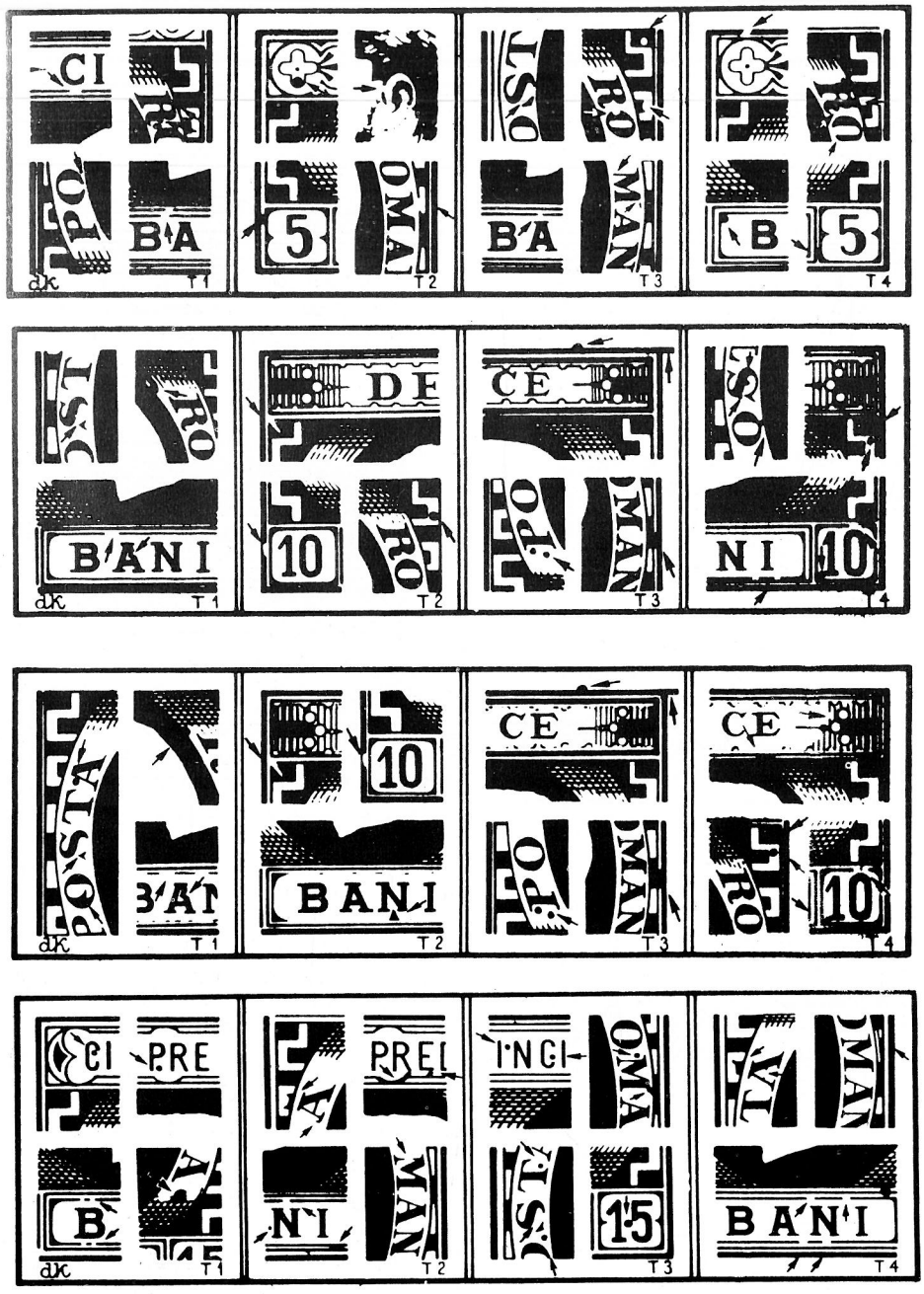


Fig. 3

Transfer Blocks:

Illustrated here (Fig. 3) are the transfer blocks of the monocolored lower values, as given in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 by Kiriac Dragomir and Aurel Surpateanu. The actual configuration of the 5, 25 and 50 Bani transfer blocks were not correctly deduced until the early forties. Research carried out both in Romania (by K. Dragomir) and abroad (by Sir John Wilson, Eduardo Cohen and Dr. L.N. Cristea) established that those previously stated (by Dr. H. Birnbach of Berlin) were not totally correct.

Paper:

The paper used for the printing of the 1869 issue varied greatly, this also affecting the colors. Its consistency varied from a fairly thick, porous, white wove, to a thin translucent ('pelure'), occasionally slightly yellowish paper.

The initial paper - thick, porous, white wove - was replaced in 1870 by a medium white wove paper which is sometimes shiny. Yellowish shades of this paper are rarer, especially unused.

The 15 Bani value is also known on vertically laid paper, but has not yet been found on genuine cover. All such items recorded are rose in color, with cancellation usually in blue violet, and occasionally in an indistinct black. The black stamp should, for the present, be considered as a possible color proof, which was used by the Ministry of Finance, for internal requirements. One researcher (Sir John Wilson) has stated that it could have been a sheet, used as a cover for one of the initial stones, which had been kept in reserve. These speculations are conjuncture, and we emphasize that the 15 Bani laid paper did not frank mail, all legible obliterations being of a fiscal nature.

Quantities Printed:

The published printing figures in the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 are as follows:

5 Bani	350,000
10 Bani	360,000
15 Bani	350,000
25 Bani	500,000
50 Bani	330,000

This adds up to a total of 1,890,000 stamps, which appears modest and improbable as this issue remained in use from April 1869 until August 1872, therefore over 3 years. Even if we take into account the other issues of 1871 and 1872, a total under two million seems improbable. If a figure for the 5 Bani stamp is used as a guide, those for the 10, 15 and 25 Bani should have been two or three times higher. In fact, by themselves the two most used values of the 1868 issue, the 2 and 18 Bani stamps, were printed in quantities of one and two million copies respectively, and were intended for internal use only. It is therefore highly unlikely that the complete 1869 issue, meant to be used also for external mail, should have been held down to a much lower printing. We can presume without hesitation that the 10 Bani value must have reached the 1,000,000 figure, while the 15 Bani must have reached 1,500,000. The total for the five values of 1869 issue can be estimated at about 3,500,000. RPSC of 1974 does not indicate the source for its figures, and, in the absence of official documents (as to the actual printings or returns of sold stamps), we must accept its figures only as estimates of the early printings of 1869/70.

The 5 Bani Stamp

This is a difficult stamp to allocate to its transfer block types. It was printed in hues ranging from yellow to red orange. Watery yellow originates in the first printing (March/April 1869). The unclear, watery appearance is common to all values of the early printings. According to the late Sir John Wilson, this was the result of too much moisture on the printing stones. The red orange shade is known in both clear and slightly fluffy printing. The later is the more elusive and - so far - unknown in an unused copy.

The 5 Bani stamp is scarce in large blocks. From the few marginal copies recorded, we can conclude that it was printed from a IV (D) type of stone. Right sheet margin copies are as important for plating as left sheet margin copies which have permitted the correction of the transfer block configuration. Known items from the right side of the sheet are one block:

3-4-1-2-x
3-4-1-2-x

and one strip: 3-4-2-3-4-x, both from the former collection of E. Cohen, and a block in an English collection:

4-x-x
3-4-x.

The biggest unit known is a mint block of 25 in the former collection of Gh. Matheescu. This mint block is an orange shade and probably comes from a sheet recorded in the stock of a London dealer in 1933. The sheet was cut into three parts. It would be interesting to trace the other two,

Fig. 4

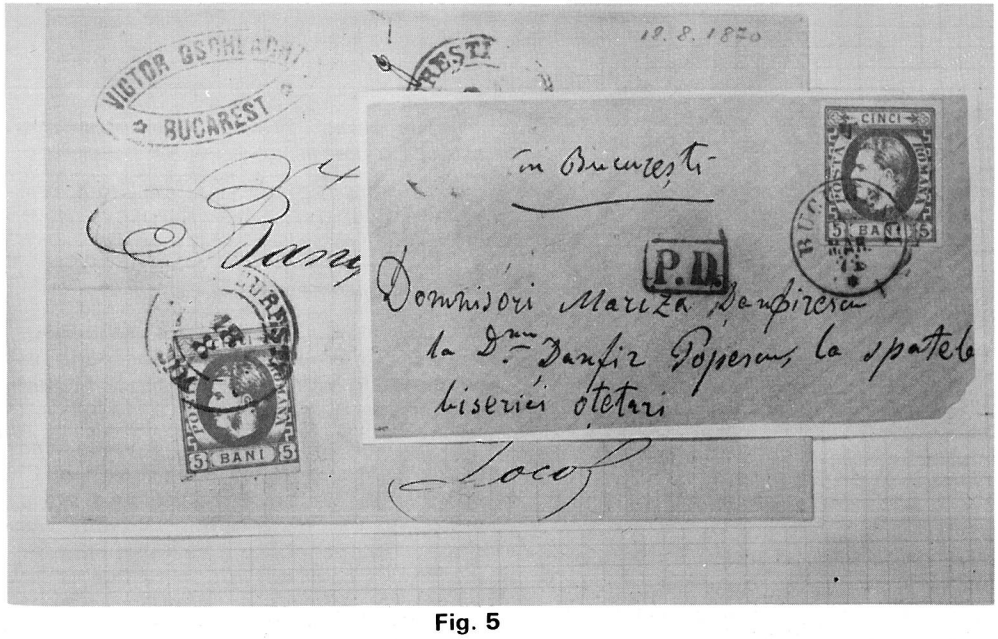


Fig. 5

or even parts of them, as they include the most interesting sections of the sheet.

Varieties

The "N" in CINCI is known with the middle line broken, which almost gives it the appearance of an "H". In type 1, the last vertical of "N" can be found broken in its lower part, and in type 4 in its upper part. The "5", in the lower right corner, has been recorded with a colored spot which makes it look like a "6".

Desirable Items:

Besides mint and used multiples, and items from the right side of the sheet, this stamp is a good item when on postal receipts (Fig. 4). They enable one to record the date of use, as most bear an indication of the year, which is not included in the 1869 Romanian postmarks (with the exception of OFFICIUL POSTAL PRINCIAR; GARA ROMAN/OFF. POSTAL; BUCURESTI/OFF. POSTAL GAR. FIL; GIURGIU/OFF. POSTAL GARA postmarks). It is also of interest on locally sent letters (Fig. 5) and printed matter sent abroad. The latter sometimes show fully dated arrival postmarks.

An outstanding item is a cover with a 5 and a 10 Bani, mailed from ROMAN to SUCEAVA (in Austrian Bucovina) (Fig. 6). The 5 Bani is the rare red orange hue. The date reading 29/12/69 in the GARA ROMAN postmark and is confirmed by the JIZKANY/Bahnhof 1/1/70. We thus have proof from this one cover that this rare shade pertains to the 1869 printings and furthermore that the fee for adjoining countries (under Austro-Hungarian control) was 15 Bani.

The 10 Bani Stamp:

This value was printed from stones prepared using two different transfer blocks. The lighter shades - full blue, light blue, greenish blue, medium blue and ultramarine - are products of the first (a) transfer block. Dark blue and indigo hues were printed from stones of the second (b) transfer block.

The medium blue, on ordinary, white wove paper has so far been recorded with cancellation dates of 26 May '69, 3 Aug. '69 and 17 Aug. '69. In October-November the color is blue, the paper porous and the printing appears less clear. In January-March 1870, when the printing stones showed signs of wear, the lithographer began to retouch the head, the bust and the hair line. These retouches can be traced through several shades. In the autumn of 1870 the stamps in full blue and ultramarine (13 Oct. '70) continue exhibiting characteristics of a worn stone. The deep ultramarine (Dec. '70) printing must have been a small one, as there are few such stamps in collections. Ultramarine stamps remained in use until February-March 1871, when a darker blue shade replaced them (April-June 1871).

Stamps printed from a stone manufactured by means of the second transfer block appear almost simultaneously with the introduction of the indigo shade. A colored dot between "T" and "A" in POSTA (type 1) as well as a break in the frame over the first Greek ornament in the upper left corner (type 1) establish that printings made during March-June 1871, in light blue, blue or indigo originated from a stone

Fig. 6

of the second transfer block. Ultramarine stamps found with postmarks from the middle of 1871 are actually remainders from 1870 (first transfer block) which had been run out of in February only in the larger towns. Yellow paper can be found in printings from either stone, in combination with medium blue, dark blue and indigo shades.

It should be noted that in 1872 there were five different 10 Bani stamps that were in use:

10 Bani blue 1869
10 Bani yellow orange 1871
10 Bani blue 1871
10 Bani blue 1872 (perf.)
10 Bani steel blue and ultramarine of 1872 (Emergency Issue).

Varieties:

The 10 Bani stamp offers us, in its medium blue shade, a classic example of the double impression, nearly triple (Fig. 7). All known copies of this exceedingly rare variety show Nov. 1870 postmarks. It has not yet been recorded unused nor in multiples, or on cover. While the minimum that could have been printed of it is one sheet, so far only 5 copies have been recorded. The 10 Bani stamps were in short supply at times. This face explains hasty printings, many shades, countless flaws, retouches (Fig. 8) and even paper folds. Stone scratches can be found on several shades, as well as retouches (to hair, ear, sideburns, dots and streaks also affect the frame design (Fig. 9).

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Bisection:

The 10 Bani value was cut in half, in order to replace 5 Bani stamps (of which there was a shortage) for the rate required on postal receipts (Fig. 10). Thus we find such used in BOLGRAD (February-August 1871), JASSY, GIURGIU and GALATZ. So far, such bisected stamps have not been recorded on letters.

Exeptional Items:

Multiples in light blue and blocks in dark ultramarine in unused state are scarce and important for plating purposes and for tracing the history of printing stones and retouches. Used blocks and multiples are likewise desirable items, especially if they come from irregular parts (zones "A" and "B") of the stone. These prove that the stamps were printed from two type IV (D) stone, as we have on record the following famous BURRUS blocks:

3-4-x-x
3-4-x-x and 4-2-3-4-x
2-3-4-x 4-2-3-4-x
1-2-3-x

That there were two stones is confirmed by many other marginal items. The Gh. Matheescu collection offers us a different part of zone "A" in a block of 4 consisting of:

2-3-x
2-3-x

This stamp used in combination with others of the same set (10 plus 5; 10 plus 15; 10 plus 25 Bani) or in mixed frankings with stamps of the 1868 issue (10 plus 2 plus 3 Bani) or the later issues of 1871 and 1872 is greatly appreciated by the specialist.

The 15 Bani Stamp:

This, the most widely used value, can be found in a great number of shades, on several papers, and with numerous constant and incidental varieties. To facilitate classification, shades have been grouped as follows:

a) Rose to rose carmine,
b) Red to deep red
c) Vermillion.

The rarest is dark rose, especially scarce on porous, white wove paper.

The paper quality differs from one printing to another. The white wove paper is known in a medium thickness, later with a shiny finish, and occasionally shows a yellow tinge.

This stamp remained in use till late August 1872 and it can be found in combination with many of the 1871 and 1872 issue stamps.

The transfer block of this value was used to make up stones of types II (B), III (C) and IV (D). At some stage during the printings, the transfer block itself was slightly retouched and type 4 thereafter exhibited a color dot in front of the "R" in ROMANA. All type 4 vermillion stamps show this variety. On vertically laid paper type 4 shows this color dot. This might point out that as the retouch of the transfer block was carried out fairly early, the stones prepared initially (with the retouch-

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

ed transfer block) was kept in reserve for a later printing, its cover sheet - of laid paper - was then removed and used for administrative purposes by the Ministry of Finance.

To identify the stones used we need more information regarding marginal multiples and other items extant. Key blocks, demonstrating the existence of three types of printing stones are:

1-2-3-4
1-2 for stone type II (B)
3-4-x-x
3-4-x-x-
1-2-3-x
2-3-4-x for stone type IV (D)
1-2-3-x
1-2-3-x
4-4-x-x for stone type III (C)

More right sheet margin copies are still needed to completely arrange the stones' makeup. From the countless shades and qualities of paper used, a great number of printings can be deduced. Therefore, several stones must have existed for each arrangement.

Retouches:

Besides the retouch on the transfer block, this value offers many retouch varieties, both by brush and tool. The most spectacular are those affecting the first 3 positions of the sheet (Fig. 11), of the red group. Position 1 presents a long colored tear under the eye; the "O" in "ROMANA" has colored spots; the "N" in "CINCISPREDECE" is thicker than the adjoining letters; the left vertical frame line is broken. Position 2 displays the variety "H" instead of "N" in "CINCISPREDECE" and the stamp's whole upper left corner has been affected. Position 3 presents the catalogued variety of the reversed "N".

Many other retouches can be found, whose position on the sheet are presently unknown (Fig. 12). Some of these are: "U" instead of "N" in CINCISPREDECE"; heavy white dot on the head at 1 o'clock; colored spots defacing the letters in the spandrels containing the words "POSTA" and "ROMANA"; frame lines with gaps and imperfections.

The background of the portrait was retouched by brush, affecting thereby the contour of the head, chin, bust and sometimes the internal frame lines.

Printing Flaws:

This much used stamp was probably sometimes printed in haste, which would account for the inconsistent color, paper folds and occasional missing sections of design. Such printing flaws play an important role in establishing the sequence of printings. The same flaws, but in different stages, appear on several shades. As we have no official records of the printings and their amounts, we can thus proceed empirically by observation.

Many of the rose and stamps (March 1872) present printing flaws. They could be due to an old stone being brought back into use, without proper cleaning or correction. Thus we encounter a variety with a white

Fig. 12

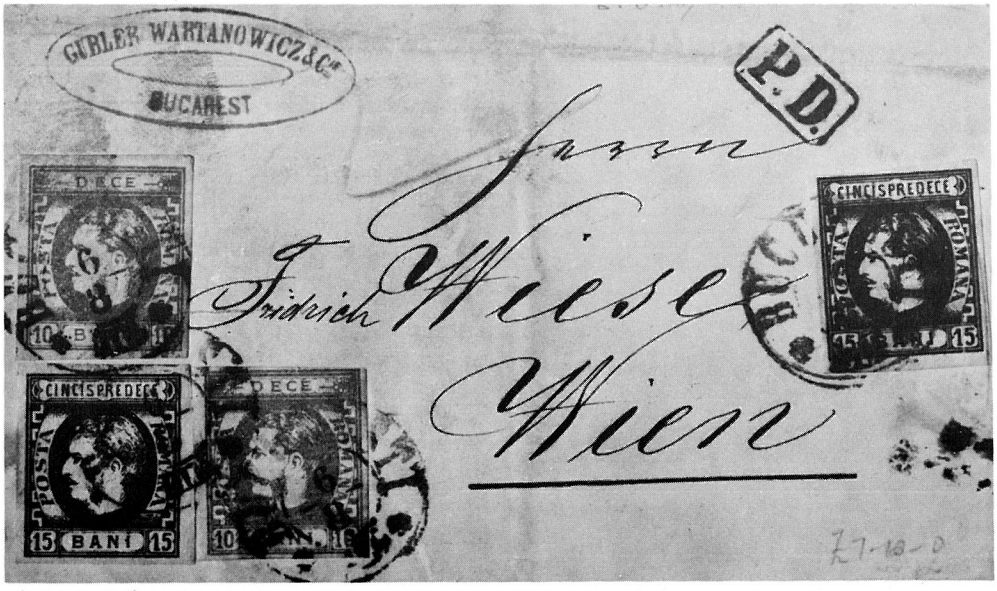


Fig. 13

line in front of the mouth (somewhat like a cigarette) and the "B" in "BANI" broken at bottom, making it an "R".

Bisection:

This stamp too was cut into smaller units - mostly thirds in order to serve as 5 Bani units - and as such is very rare. For example, a letter posted in BACAU bears identical lower left corners of two 15 Bani stamps, paying the 10 Bani rate. The postmarks reads: BACAU/POSTA 21/12/71. (This item can be found illustrated in H.R. Harmer Sale Catalogue - London - 20/21 Nov. 1962).

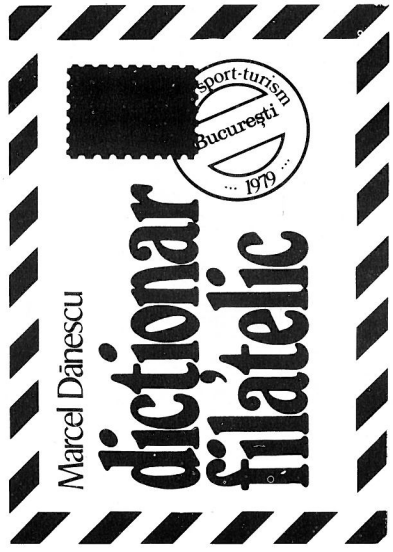
Outstanding Items:

Unused multiples in rose, red and carmine are elusive, as well as used multiples in all shades. BOLGRAD was one of the post offices which did not receive sufficient 25 and 50 Bani stamps. In order to make up for this shortage, it used strips of 15 Bani combined with other values. Strips used in 1971 and 1872 are quite common (Fig. 13) but desirable when in combination with stamps of the 1868 and 1872/2 issues.

The second part of this study will be devoted to the examination of the bi-colored 25 and 50 Bani top values.

REVIEW by **Mihail Popovici:**
DICTIONAR FILATELIC
(Philatelic Dictionary).

Written by **Marcel Danescu** and published in 1979 in Bucharest, Romania, it contains 222 pages, is hardbound and costs 35 lei. An excellent tool for philatelists, it fills a longstanding need in Romanian philatelic literature. The author presents and illustrates (with about 600 pictures and 32 color plates) over 1000 philatelic and historical terms, abbreviations, technical terminology concerning printing, etc.



The dictionary also includes a bibliography, a table of contents and a list of Romanian philatelic expressions with their German, French and English equivalents.

This book was published by "Editura Sport-Turism" and it has an edition of 20,500 copies. It is exceptionally well printed and its contents are bound to be informative and educational.

AN UNRECORDED VARIETY OF THE 3 BANI "CAROL WITH VULTURE"

I. Hudisteanu, 10 Syki Ings, Iver, Bucks, SLO 9ET England.

I have had for quite a while a "Carol with vulture" 3 Bani stamp (Scott #76), violet on white paper, perf. 13½, with a c.d.s. FEB (year unclear) showing a white line starting from below the left number 3 in the bottom corner and running through the lower half of the letters A, N and I of the word BANI and then through the lower half of the bottom right number 3 and both inner and outer frame.

I took it to be due to a printing accident as it was not mentioned in the fairly comprehensive illustrated list of varieties of this issue in the Catalogue of The Romanian Postage Stamps of 1974, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, where 7 varieties are listed, of which 5 illustrated of the 3 Bani, some of them minute.

To my pleasant surprise, I have now found two more specimens showing the same flaw, one of the same color and perforation (CMPR #58a, Scott #76) with a c.d.s. JAN (year again unclear), the other one a CMPR #71 (Scott #89) i.e. perf. 11½ x 13½, coat-of-arms impressed watermark, the fraction of the c.d.s. does not show the date.

In my opinion, this could no longer be the case of an accidental flaw, but a proper variety, hitherto unrecorded.

I would be grateful to hear from any reader, who may have heard, read or noticed this variety, perhaps know even the position of the plate, and there may even be retouches correcting this scratch.

REVIEW:

Catalogue of the AEROMFILA '79 Philatelic Exhibition.

Exhibition catalogues can be useful tools for research oriented philatelists. From lists of exhibitors and exhibits, it can be seen, who is collecting and what is being collected and studied. Advantageous contacts can be established to exchange information as well as interesting philatelic material. Original and informative studies by leading specialists in various fields are often included.

This excellently printed catalogue of the international aerophilatelic exhibition held in Bucharest in October 14-22, 1979, runs 82 pages. Besides the customary rules and regulations of the exhibition (written in Romanian, French and German), it contains a list of exhibitors and exhibits.

Its key-note article, "50 Years since the Flight of LZ-127 Zeppelin on the Balkan Route" is written by a leading Romanian aerophilatelist, Alexandru Bartoc. This study, richly illustrated, is likewise in Romanian, French and German. Bartoc also presents a list of 170 first and special flights, made by Romanian or foreign airlines to or from Romania. He gives dates, routes, airline companies, types of planes and whether special covers and/or cancellations were used. This lists illustrates 114 such cancels.

A NEWLY REPORTED MARITIME CANCELLATION

Silviu Dragomir, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania.

Recently I found a maritime cancellation which should be denoted S.M.R. 1.2.13.3., using the classification system adopted in "Romanian Maritime Cancels" (see Romanian Philatelic Studies, nos. 2 and 3, 1979).

The single circle cancellation (which I found on a postcard) is 30.5 mm in diameter. In its center, inside of a 9.5 mm wide band is the date: day, month (in Roman numerals) and year (the last three digits). BIR. AMB. (curved) and MARITIN (straight), spelled with "N" instead of "M," both appear in the upper spandrel. The lower spandrel shows CONSTANTA (straight) and ALESANDRIA (curved and spelled with "S" instead of "X"O. The date of use is 24 XII. 934 (Dec. 24, 1934).

The card's text reads: " . . . I write you from on board the Dacia, two hours before our arrival to the Bosphorus . . . ". The card, addressed to Bucharest, arrived there on Dec. 27, 1934.

From the test and the markings we can draw the following conclusions:

The S.M.R. 1.2.13.3. cancellation was used on Dacia;

It was applied on shipboard by a postal clerk or crew member having his duties;

Furthermore it was utilized for all the correspondence posted on board;

Mail sent in the opposite direction of the course of navigation was placed in postal bags and handed over to the post office in the first port of call;

The fact that no other marking (such as transit marking) can be found on the card leads us to believe that correspondence from the Dacia (and other ships) addressed to Romania was put in mail bags and forwarded from Constantinople without further sorting or handling, except in the city of destination where it received an arrival marking (in this case, in Bucharest).

This cancellation is the counterpart of S.M.R. 1.2.13.2. used in the opposite direction, from Alexandria (Egypt) to Constanta (Romania), perhaps on the very same ship.

Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 1, 2, 3, of 1977, 1, 2, 3, 4, of 1978, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1979, 1, 2 of 1980 can be ordered for $1.00/copy.

A Little-Known Procedure Used By Romanian Rural Posts of a Century Ago

Reprinted from
Stamp Show News
March 1980

by Silviu Dragomir, Bucharest, Romania

Fig.1

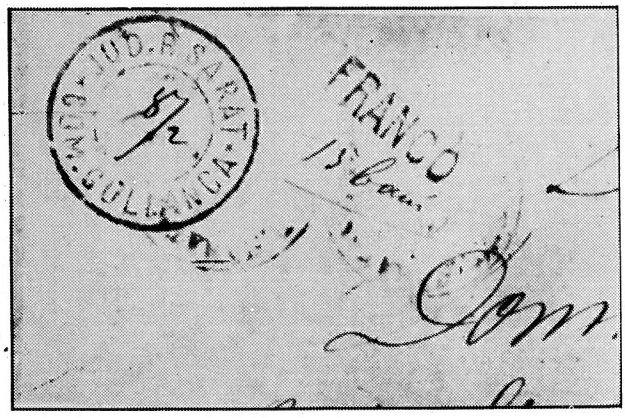


Fig.2.

A yellow envelope from a century ago, which was mailed in a rural area, posed numerous questions for me. This item was included in my collection under "curiosities" and I kept postponing its study.

Addressed "Domniei Seale Domnului Agriculturi si Domeniilor, Bucuresti" (To the Minisiter of Agriculture and Domains, Bucharest), it had a franking of 15 Bani provided by a horizontal strip of three 5 Bani green stamps (of the Paris-Bucharest issues; Bucharest second printing, Scott #68, CMPR '74 #50). The obliteration was a Librecht type cancellation (25.5 mm diameter), having the inscription "DIST. R. SARAT" at top and "PL. MARGINEA DE JOS" at bottom. In the middle, the date "10/2" (Feb. 10) in form of a fraction, was by mistake placed upside down. It should be noted that the Librecht type cancellation is a later usage, 21 years from its introduction. The envelope bears other cancellations as well: that of transit: "R. SARAT 2 FEB 86", and that of arrival: "BUCURESTI 12 FEB 86—CURSA 1."

My questions about this envelope arose from the fact that part of another cancellation, of a different type, could be seen from under the stamps. This cancellation fragment had been applied in a different ink from the ones already described (Fig. 1). What was the meaning of the covered cancellation? Why was it used and why were the stamps applied over it? There could only be two possibilities: the item was a fake; or I was dealing with an unknown postal procedure.

If it was faked, then it had to have been "manufactured" in the last century. It was hard to assume such a possibility since I had obtained this envelope from a reliable source, and, additionally, the envelope required franking anyway as it wasn't official. Therefore, the possibility of an added (bogus) franking to an official stampless cover was excluded.

The remaining choice of an unknown postal procedure forced me to pursue the matter in the only manner left—removal of the stamps from the envelope. This, after adequate preparation, I successfully accomplished while preserving the stamps' original gum. Under these stamps two cancellations now appeared. One was a double circle (26.5 mm and 15 mm diameters) with the inscription: "JUD. R. SARAT — COM. GULIANCA" and a handwritten date of "8/2" (Feb. 8). The other was a rectangular "FRANCO" type marking, having below it, in manuscript, using the same violet ink as the date: "15 bani" (Fig. 2).

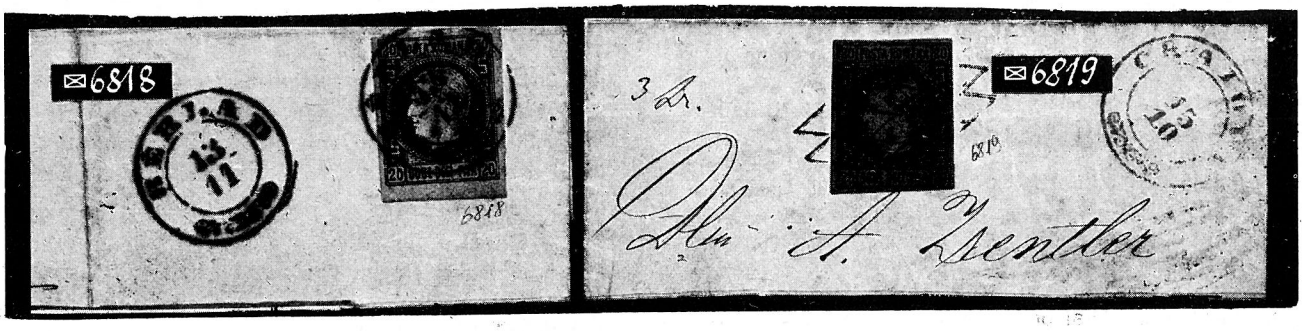
Now this postal procedure became clear and logical. The sender had gone with his letter to the local notary (residing in Glianca village which had no post office or any other similar agency). The notary, having received the letter, and not possessing postage stamps, applied the "FRANCO" cancellation, and penned in the value (15 bani), to show that postage had been paid. Similarly, he wrote in the date in the circular cancellation (8/2).

The letter was then forwarded along with the money collected to MARGINEA DE JOS, a sub-prefecture to which the village of GULIANCA belonged. There, the postal employee received the money and applied the franking (the three Bani stamps) over the "FRANCO" and circular cancellations, since the letter had now entered the regular mailstream. This was on 10/2 (Feb. 10, 1886).

The letter was then cancelled at the main post office of the R. SARAT county. This cancellation of Feb. 2, 1886 is without doubt an error as it should have been Feb. 12, 1886. It was finally delivered in Bucharest on Feb. 12, 1886.

The entire process, seemingly very complicated, but really efficient (especially for that era), took only four days.

COVERS FROM THE ARNOLD EBEL (Frankfurt, Germany) March 11-15, 1980, AUCTION



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Madame
Ghyka
ROMAN
SERA
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P.D.
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No. 58
Stația
QUITANȚA
Priimit.
In valórea declarată de 40 leĭ
In greutate de 70 grame
Destinatar D.
6828

Typographical Errors Of The Paris-Bucharest Issues

Reprinted from
Stamp Show News
January 1980

by Silviu Dragomir

Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17
70268 Bucharest, Romania

The Paris-Bucharest issues (Scott #53-72) were the first Romanian stamps printed in huge quantities (approximately 60,000,000). At first they were printed in Paris, later in Bucharest. Considering the issue to be remarkable both artistically and technically, Anatole Hulot, the director of the Paris printing plant, declared at that time for the press: "Ces timbres sont les plus parfaits comme gravure typographique et impression dans tous les timbres usinees sur les deux continents" ("These stamps are the most perfect examples of typographical engraving and printing of all stamps utilized on the two continents"). Not just simply self praise, this statement can be considered valid to this day.

Without getting into details on the modes of printing, we make a few observations regarding the three printings which make up this issue:

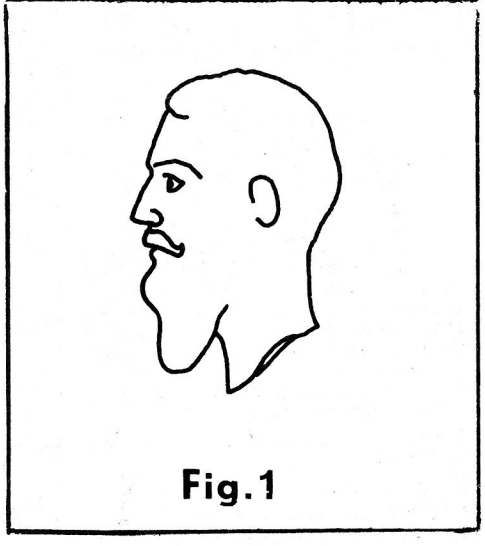


Fig. 1

THE PARIS ISSUE was carefully and accurately executed; therefore, besides constant transfer characteristics, no varieties or anomalies can be reported. While under intense examination, certain differences from the normal types can be found, these are merely "typographical quirks," and generally cannot be plated as to their positions on the sheet.

THE FIRST BUCHAREST ISSUE, although made with the original Paris cliches, is much less perfect because by that time the cliches were getting worn and the facilities at the new printing plant in Bucharest were inferior to those in Paris. The printing is deficient, lacking the finesse of the ones produced in Paris; the colors are weaker and the printing left many blank spots. Generally, the stamps' appearance is either dull, or blurred. Thus, the inscriptions are often illegible and details do not stand out. Although on the first Bucharest issue many accidental errors can be found, these are not "typical" as they cannot be plated on the sheet and thus do not constitute constant varieties. However, some of these printing errors are quite spectacular and they have been identified by researchers:

The "goat beard" can be observed on the 15 Bani, red brown (Scott #64) as an addition to the bottom of the beard (Fig. 1).

Another typographical error is the so-called "double-impression" on the 5 Bani, yellowish-bistre (Scott #61) (Fig. 2). Double impressions are produced when the design having passed through the press twice, was

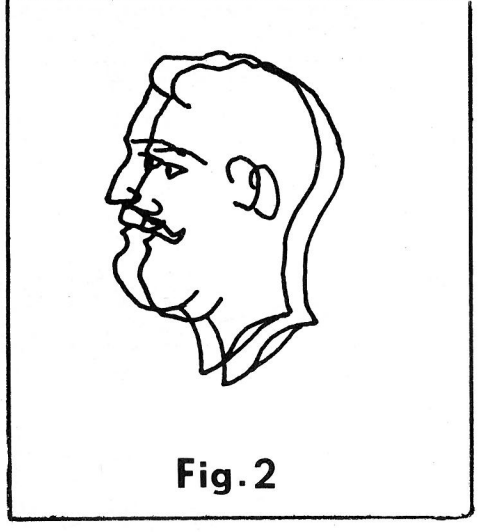
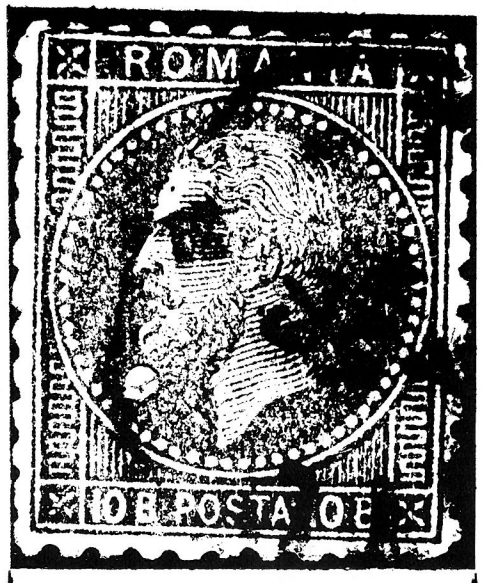


Fig. 2



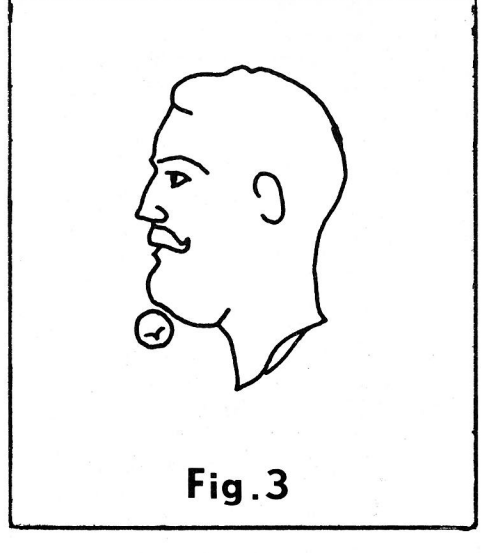


Fig. 3

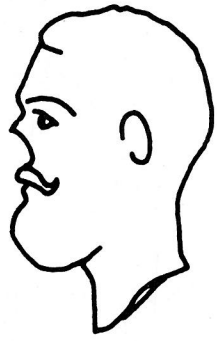


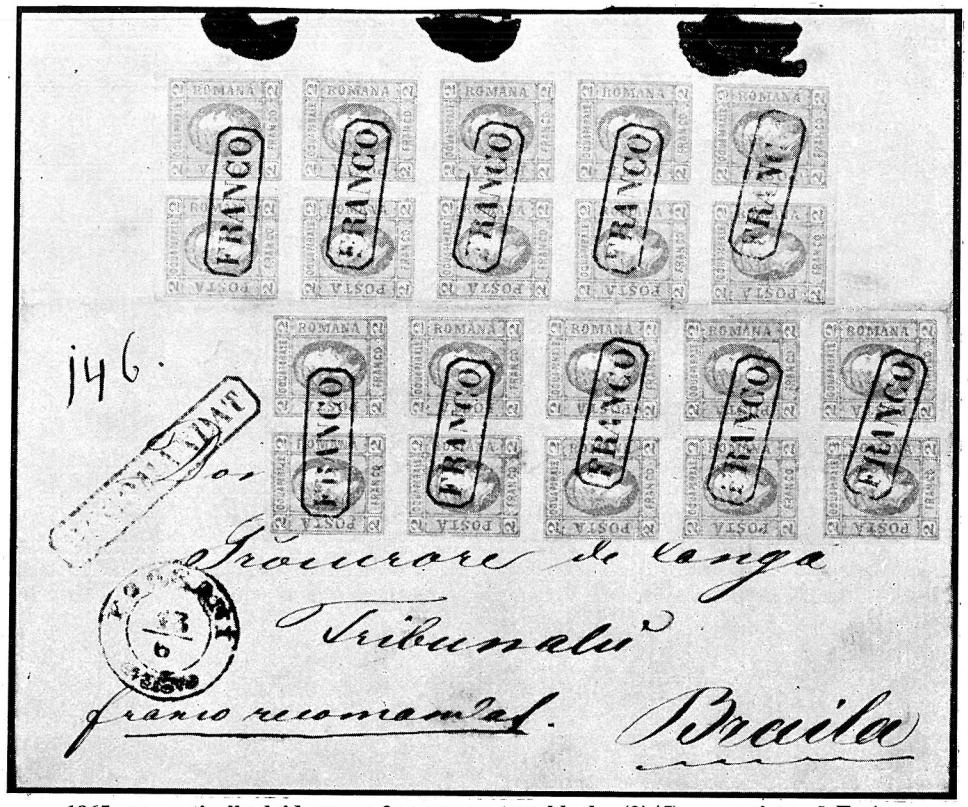
Fig.4

doubly printed; they should not be confused with blurred printings due to wobbling of the printing plate (German: Schmitzdruck).

The "bird on the moon" error on the 10 Bani, blue (Scott #62), is thus named because it looks like a frontal view of a flying bird on a white, round background (Fig. 3).

THE SECOND BUCHAREST ISSUE. When further supplies of stamps became necessary, these had to be printed in accord with the color recommendations of the U.P.U. Congress (held in Paris in May 1978). Therefore, this third issue was prepared in new; different colors. The printing of these stamps is inferior to those produced in Paris but superior to the first Bucharest issue. The reason for this improvement is that the old cliches were cleaned and repaired, and new cliches were also used. Nevertheless, some errors were produced. On the 5 Bani, light green (Scott #68) I have found an error which I call "5 Bani without nose" (Fig. 4), the effigy being totally without its nose. This condition was caused either by the flow of colored ink from the adjoining background, or by a defective cliche.

Such items show that the Paris-Bucharest issues present endless possibility for further study.



1865 on vertically laid paper 2p. orange two blocks (2×5) on registered E. (one block affixed to reverse) from Foscani to Braila cancelled by framed "FRANCO" in greenish blue and showing framed "RACOMANDAT" in the same colour on front, two stamps are touched and there are a few slight creases none of which detract from the spectacular beauty or importance of this remarkable cover. Photo also in colour on Plate R S.F. 10,000

A 624-page **ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE** '74, by K. Dragomir and A. Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00.

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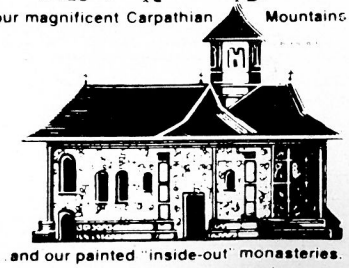
They love our beautiful Bucharest

...our magnificent Carpathian Mountains

...our sun-kissed Black Sea shore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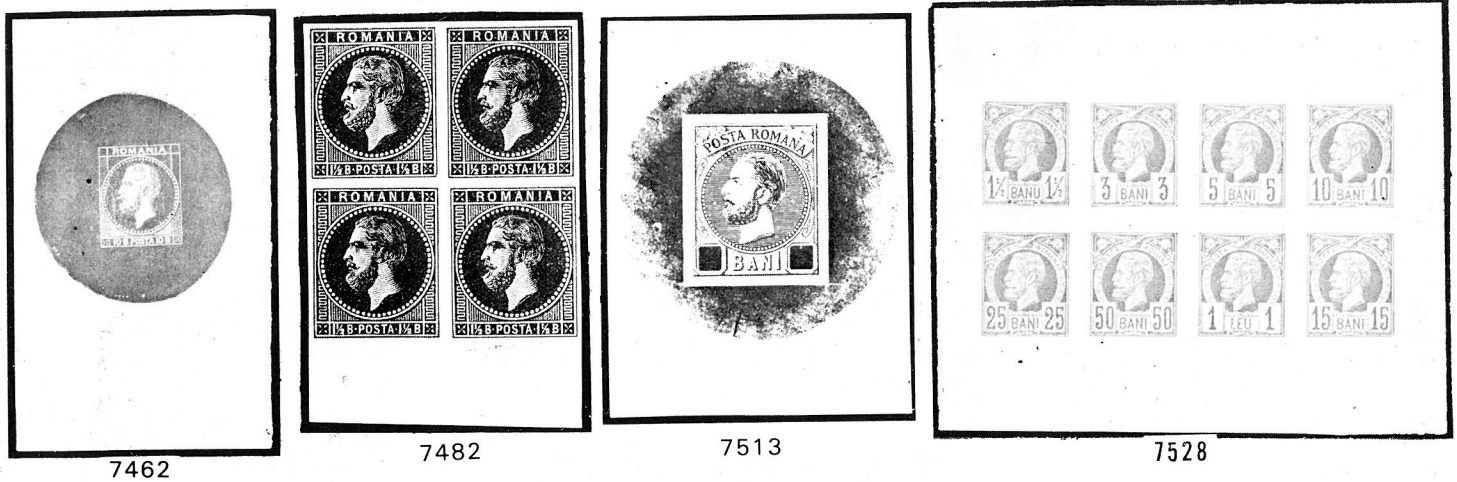
X7400 X7401 X7402 7403 7404 X7405

Lot		Description	Reference	Evaluation	Prices realized
7400	E	**1865** Essays for the first issue of the United Principalities, first proposal, central Eagle with blank tablets around, 4 die proofs in olive green, yellow brown, dark orange and cobalt blue on China paper, vf.	PHOTO	$160	$125.00
7401	E	Essays for the first issue of the United Principalities, first proposal, central Eagle with blank tablets around, 4 pairs of imperf plate proofs in green, brown, carmine and black, vf.	PHOTO	$160	125.00
7402	E	Essays showing rampant Lion with Sword, embossed, blue and carmine, third proposal, og, vf.	PHOTO	$60	70.00
7403	E	Essay of Prince Cuza facing r, fourth proposal, unfinished die proof in blue with value tablet at b blank, unknown to Cohen, shallow thinning and pinhole, a fine example of this scarce essay.	PHOTO	$125	80.00
7404	E	Essay of Prince Cuza, fourth proposal die proof of 20pa deep brownish purple with extra frame around ouside design, unknown thus to Cohen, shallow thinning, fine and scarce.	PHOTO	$125	80.00
7405	E	**Essays of Prince Cuza facing r, fourth proposal, 24 diff imperf color proofs of the finished design, five 2pa, thirteen 5pa and seven 20pa (one thinned), with many colors unknown to Cohen, f-vf, a rare group difficult to assemble.**	**PHOTO**	**$450**	–

7411 7412 7415 7442 X7463 X7464 7473 X7514

7411	P	**1866** 2pa Carol, imperf plate proof, black on lilac tinted carton, vf.	PHOTO #29; Cohen #V1	$60	60.00
7412	P	2pa Carol, imperf plate proof, black on violet tinted carton, vf.	PHOTO #29; Cohen #V2	$60	57.50
7415	P	5pa Carol, imperf plate proof, black on yellowish tinted carton, f-vf.	PHOTO #30; Cohen #V6	$50	52.50
7442	P	**Plate proof of the blue frame of the 50b alone, unknown to Cohen, very rare and attractive, vf.**	**PHOTO #42**	**$250**	–
7463	—	1½-10b Carol with beard new design an example of the decoupage made from card stock showing 1, 2 and 3 layer build up to obtain the fine impression of the Paris prints, a combination of color making for a very attractive and scarce unit.	PHOTO #53-56	$125	80.00
7464	P	Carol with beard Paris prints, 4 plate proofs in unissued colors incl 1½b blue, 10b bistre gray and two 50b in diff shades of gray, 3 with minor thins o/w f-vf.	#53, 56, 59[2×]	$75	75.00
7473	P	10b Carol Paris print plate proof in issued color on slightly yellowish paper, imperf pair with partial sheet margin at r, vf.	PHOTO #56	$50	52.50
7514	P	15b King Carol, 5 diff imperf proofs in black on yellow green, green, rose buff and blue paper, vf.	PHOTO #73	$75	50.00



7462 7482 7513 7528

7462	P	**PARIS PRINTS 1872** 10b Carol with beard new design unfinished large die proof in negative oval printed on piece measuring 55 × 95mm, vf and rare.	PHOTO #56	$200	125.00
7482	⊞P	1½b Carol Bucharest printing, black plate proof imperf blk of 4 on yellowish proof paper, sheet margin at b, vf.	PHOTO #60	$60	47.50
7513	P	**1880** New King Carol type, large die proof in black with blank value tablets, attractive and vf, scarce.	PHOTO type A12	$150	125.00
7528	P	**Vulture issue in composite sheetlet of 8 values in blue gray incl all the issued values plus the unissued 1L, vf and scarce in uncut sheets.**	**PHOTO type A13**	**$250**	–

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ASSISTANCE STAMPS

George Pataki

"Assistance Stamps" or "Charity Stamps" are not postage stamps at all. Their purpose was collection of funds for various organizations or charities and not prepayment of postage. While some were used at first voluntarily on postal matter, later their use became mandatory. Others were mandatorily used from the moment they were issued.

We present here three types of such assistance stamps, not listed in the Scott catalogue, however, fully described in the Romanian Postage Stamps Catalogue of 1974 (page 451):

1. TB ASSISTANCE - Issued in 1913, they are typographed on unwatermarked, white porous paper, and are perf. 11½ or 11½:13½. The single 5 Bani value, issued in two different colors - green and orange - portrays the effigy of Queen Maria. Funds collected were used to aid those affected by tuberculosis.

2. ASSISTANCE FOR DRAFTEES or TOWARDS THE CARPATHIANS - Issued in 1914, it is typographed on unwatermarked white paper, perf. 11½ (scarcer) or imperforate. Its denomination is 10 Bani and its color is blue. Issued just before WW I, it had political implications as the Romanian soldier depicted on it is supposedly marching towards the Carpathian Mountains, thus implicitly towards Transylvania, that time under Hungarian administration. It was withdrawn, alledegly at the request of the Austro-Hungarian ambassador.

3. EMPEROR TRAJAN or ASSISTANCE STAMP FOR TRANSYLVANIANS - Issued in 1915, on unwatermarked white grey paper, they are perf. 11½. Showing a bust of Emperor Trajan, the single 10 Bani value comes in two colors: rose or greenish grey. Some have the overprint "CONTROLAT" applied oblique on the stamps' lower half.

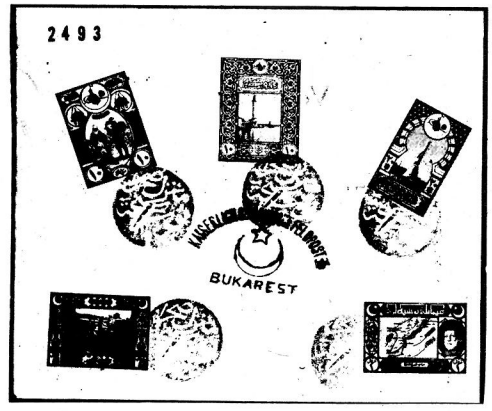
Most philatelists avoid calling such items "stamps," preferring to cal them "labels." Because they often can be found on covers and cards, they are of interest to specialists.

Turkish Field Post Cancel Used In Bucharest (II)

George Pataki

In our No. 1/1980 bulletin we illustrated a favor-cancelled cover, bearing a Turkish field post cancellation that was used in Bucharest during the early part of WW I when part of Romania was temporarily occupied by the Central Powers. It was eventually sold for $50.00. We now show a second postal marking of the same period on a cover offered for sale in the ROGER KOERBER (605 Northland Towers West, Southfield, Michigan 48075), Jan. 3-5, 1980, auction catalogue.

This is also a favor cancelled cover, not even being addressed. Its five Turkish stamps are each neatly cancelled by a negative Turkish cancellation. What is important to the Romanian specialist is that the marking applied on the cover's center reads "KAISERLICH OSMANISCHE FELDPOST 35 BUKAREST" and shows a crescent and five-pointed star. This marking's size is approximately 38.3 x 32.2 mm. It was sold for $60.00.



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A 624-page **ROMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE** '74, by K. Dragomir and A Surpateanu, is available from the editor to members of the Romanian Philatelic Club for $25.00

The Earliest Romanian Quarantine Seals and Cachets

Reprinted from THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, April 1980.

by Kiriac Dragomir

The Quarantines and Their Seals and Cachets in Walachia 1830-1859

As long ago as the last quarter of the seventeenth century, Walachia had instituted temporary measures against the plague. A 1784 document noted that tradesmen arriving from Silistria (in the Ottoman Empire) had to spend five days in quarantine. In 1792, more comprehensive measures were taken by the "Casa Epistasiilor" (Health Committee).

Constantinople again was seriously affected by the plague in 1812. The Walachian authorities established quarantine stations along the Danube River at the usual crossing points. Despite these precautions, the plague appeared in Bucharest just one day after the arrival of Ioan Caragea, the new ruler who had come from Constantinople at the head of a large retinue. For two years it raged unabated, killing nearly 100,000 people in Walachia

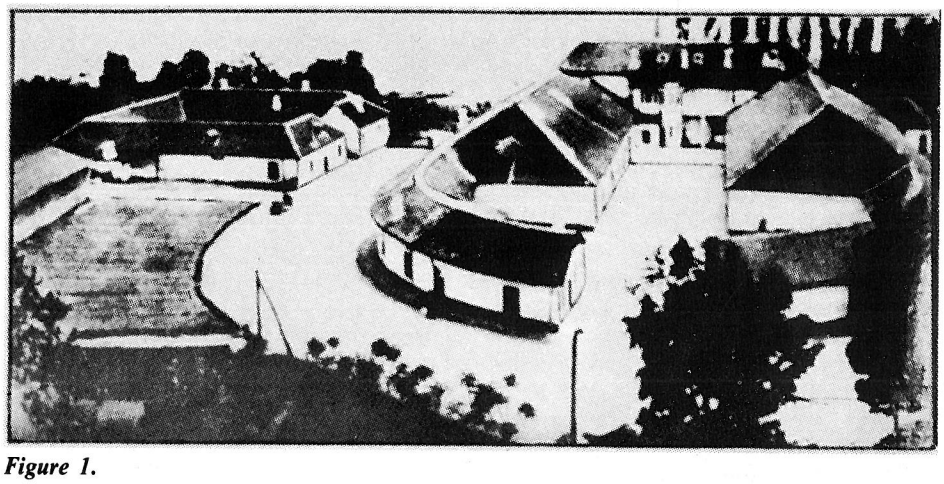

Figure 1.

Kiriac Dragomir of Bucharest is a well known Romanian philatelic scholar. George Pataki, president of the Romanian Philatelic Club, APS Affiliate No. 88, edited the article.

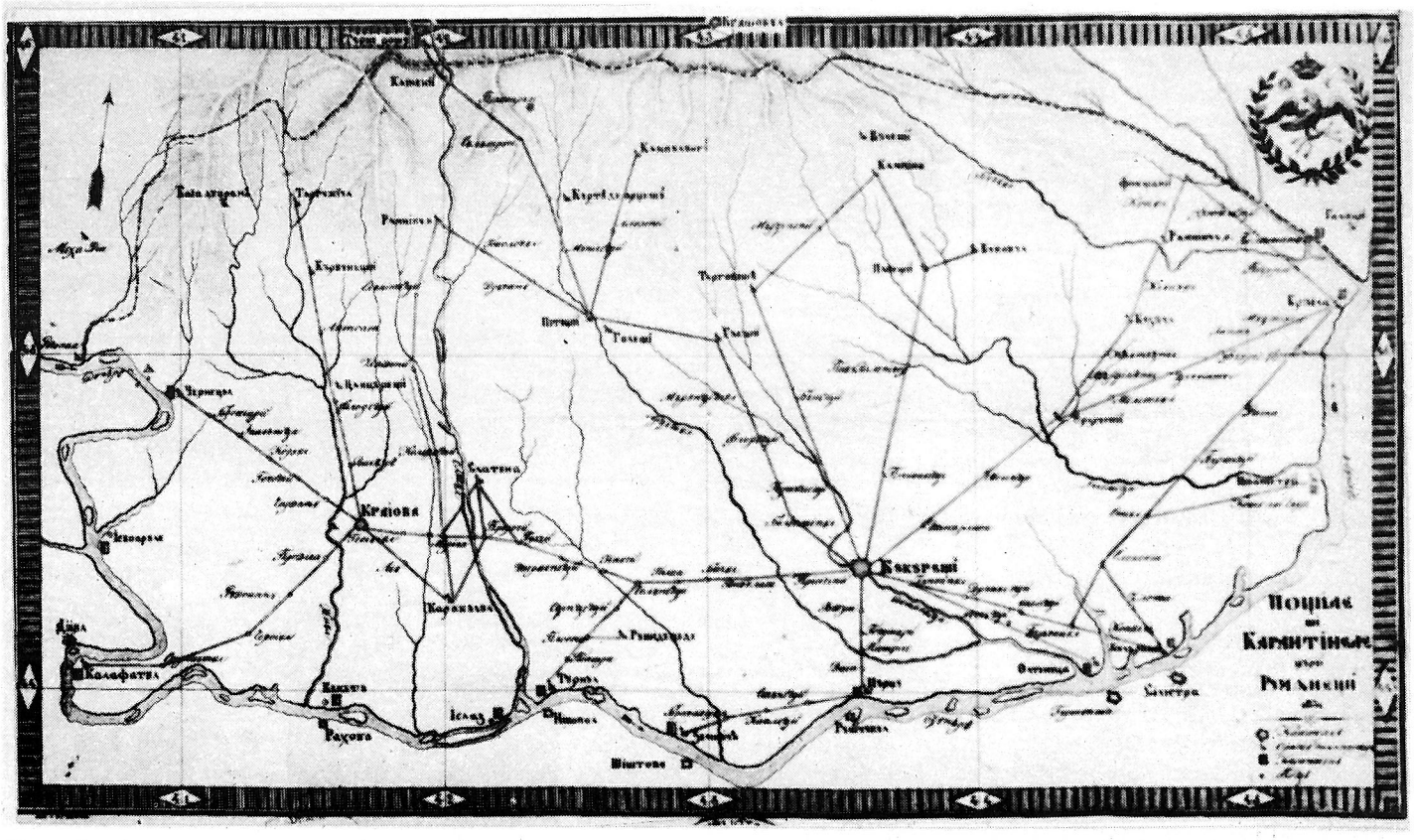

Figure 2.

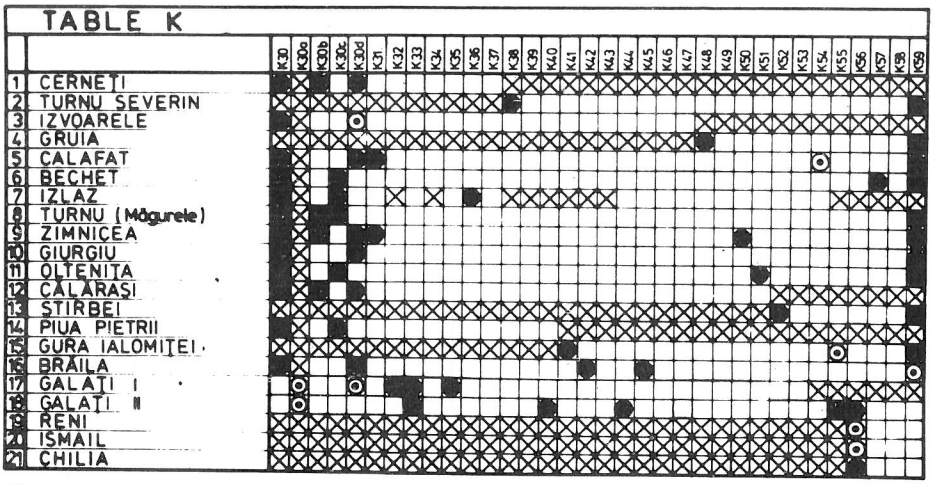

Figure 3.

alone. Other such epidemics appeared almost yearly, starting in 1818, in both Walachia and Moldavia.

Austria similarly instituted quarantines along the Carpathian Mountains: Turnu-Rosu (Roterturm); Timis (Temes); Oituz; Boian; and Poiana. Russia followed suit along the Pruth River: Lipcani; Sculeni; Leova; and Reni.

Plague once again visited the Romanian principalities during the Russo-Turkish War of 1828-1829. To prevent the spread of bubonic plague, Walachia instituted internal quarantines in 1828. A health cordon was established around Bucharest; field hospitals were improvised in monasteries as well as in villages from which the resident peasants had fled to safer regions. Hundreds of people were dying daily in such towns as Jassy, Galatz, Craiova, and Calarasi.

And then in 1831, yet one more disaster struck Walachia — cholera! Once again, the capital city of Walachia, Bucharest, established quarantines at all its main entrances so that those who had managed to survive the plague did not die of cholera.

By the terms of the Adrianopole peace treaty (between Russia and Turkey), Walachia recovered Braila, Giurgiu, and Turnu in September 1829. The first measure taken there against epidemics was a sanitary cordon along the Danube. By Parliamentary Order of December 1829, quarantines and trade fairs were authorized from Virciorova to Galatz. The new health law stated definite goals and tasks for officials of these stations. They had to detain (in isolation for four days) travelers crossing the Danube.

Although couriers were subjected to only six hours' detention, all their letters and packages had to be presented for strict fumigation. Regulations detailed the manner in which letters must be opened, slit, cut,

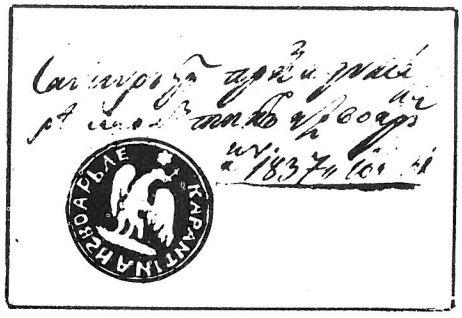

Figure 4.

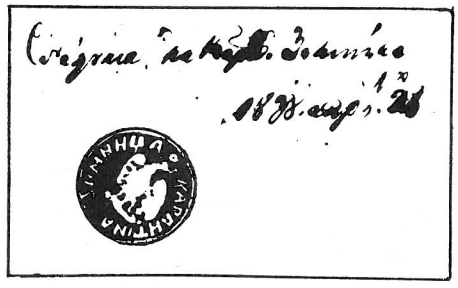

Figure 5.

and resealed — without damage to the contents. Only head officers were permitted to break seals for fumigation purposes. When the letters were resealed, the official's signature and the date of this operation had to be certified by him. A mixture of salt, magnesium, sulphuric acid, and water was prescribed for fumigation.

Because all mail crossing the Danube had its "purification" certified by the application of a "Sigillium Sanitatis" — health seal or cachet — such markings are extremely interesting from a philatelic point of view. They are considered the earliest Romanian postal markings. The two-dimensional cachets applied with smoke-black (soot) or Chinese ink and the three-dimensional seals impressed in wax are highly collectible, and have become appreciated postal history items.

By amendment of February 1830, the health law established seven quarantines and five trade fairs in Walachia, corresponding to those formerly in the Ottoman Empire, south of the Danube, as follows:

Quarantines:
1. Braila (Macin)
2. Calafat (Vidin)
3. Calarasi (Silistria)
4. Cerneti (Cladova)
5. Giurgiu (Rustchouk)
6. Izvoarele (Praovo-Negotin)
7. Zimnicea (Sistov)

Trade Fairs:
1. Bechet (Rahova)
2. Izlaz (Samovit)
3. Turnu (Nikopoli)
4. Oltenita (Turtukaia)
5. Piua-Pietri (Hirsova)

So-called "Regulamentul Organic" ("Organic Regulations" — a constitution endowing the principalities with modern institutions) later changed this distribution and its classification into first class (large), second class (smaller), and third class (trade fairs) quarantines. Braila, Calafat, and Giurgiu thus were accorded first class status. Calarasi, Cerneti, Turnu, and Zimnicea were considered second class; Izvoarele, Bechet, Oltenita, and Piua-Pietri were designated third class. Izlaz was considered a sub-office attached to Turnu.

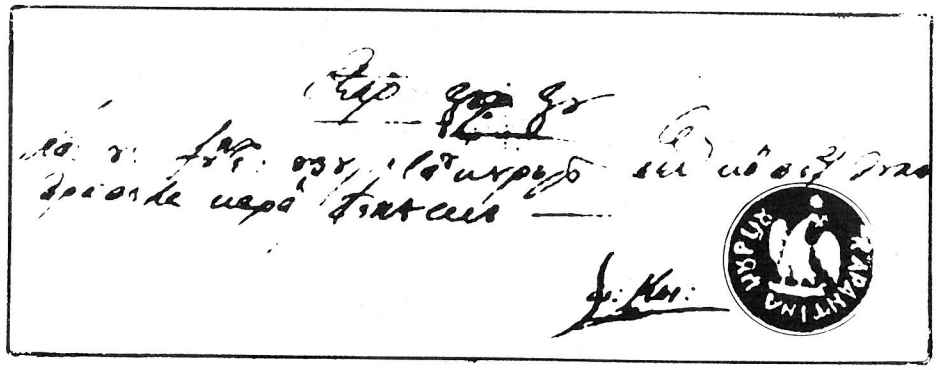

Figure 6.

Further changes were to follow. On November 28, 1832, Calafat was downgraded to second class; Calarasi ascended to first class. The third-class Bechet exchange fair was, in 1852, raised to a second-class quarantine on the request of the Craiova tradesmen. Furthermore, during the 1830-1859 period, three quarantines changed their locations and thus also their names, as follows:

Figure 7.

Figure 8.

1. Cerneti, Mehedinti County (quarantine 1830-1838)

A report of this quarantine, dated April 1837, states: "Passengers coming from Rusava, after 10 days spent in the Austrian quarantine, are received by the Varciorova Customs Office and then escorted by Walachian frontier guards as far as Cerneti where they are to undergo another 10 days of isolation."

The town is one and a half kilometers north of the Danube, on the Topolnita River opposite Simian Island. It was founded in 1475 after soldiers of Mohammed II destroyed Severin. The quarantine area was situated seven kilometers southwest of the town, near the village of Schela-Cladovei. Comprised of thatched mud huts, the

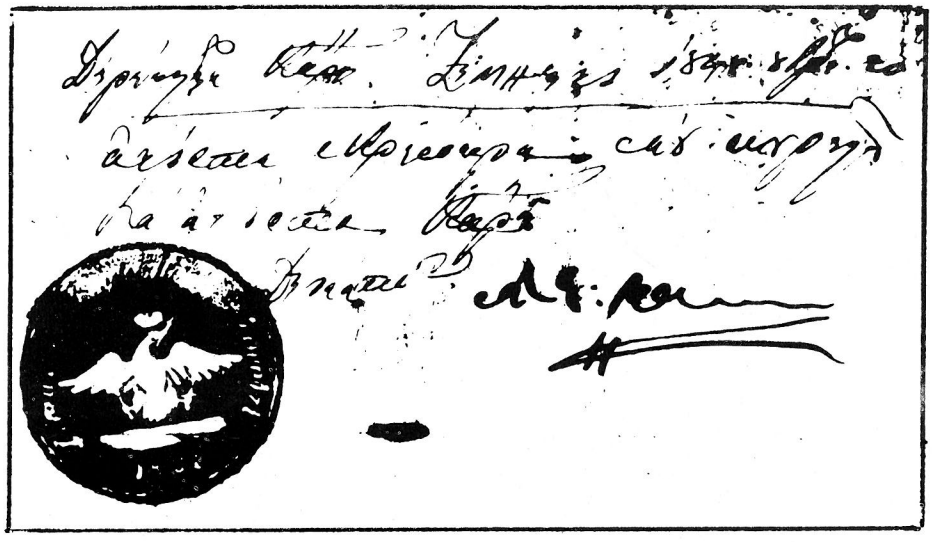

Figure 9.

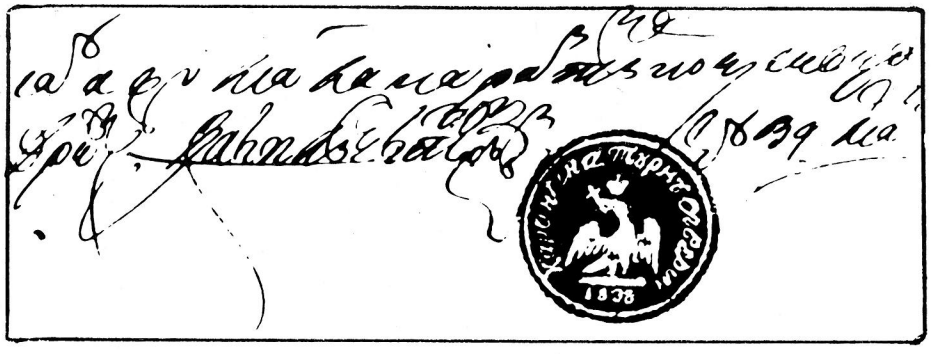

Figure 10.

quarantine had fourteen employees under its director (Vasile Strambeanu), and for its health services — a Transylvanian doctor (Ting Carol), a midwife (Anica), and two gravediggers. This Walachian quarantine stayed in contact with its Austrian counterpart at Rusava-Supanek (Orsova-Jupalnic) in Banat County, and its Serbian counterpart at Kladovo.

After the town was burned by the Turks in 1828, its people petitioned to be moved to the site of the old Roman town of Drobeta, nearer to the Danube. The new town of Turnu-Severin thus was founded in 1830 through the decree granting this request. The first significant edifice to be erected was the quarantine, which today is the oldest building still standing in the town (Figure 1).

This new quarantine, replacing the old one at Schela-Cladovei, was located in the town's center, by the Danube's bank and adjacent to a park dominated by the ruins of an old castle tower. The buildings on the four-hectare[1] site included the hospital and landing facilities, both on the riverbank; on the hill were the isolation, administrative, and canteen buildings as well as the quarantine post office. A repair bill, dated 1849, shows that the quarantine consisted of eight rooms for passengers; a kitchen; a dining room; a bath; a laundry; food storage, medical, and pharmaceutical rooms; as well as a fumigation room (for both people and

1. A hectare is a metric unit equal to 2,471 acres.

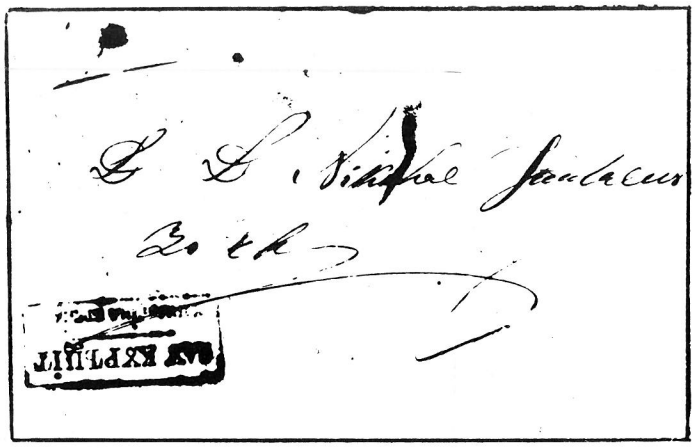

Figure 11.

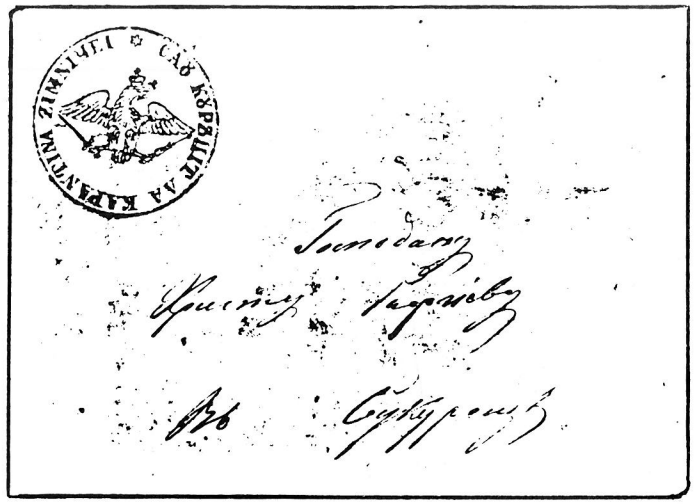

Figure 12.

their clothes), and one room reserved for the "box and tongs used for the purification of papers by fumigation, in accordance with the health regulations."

The county's administrative offices moved to Turnu-Severin in spring 1841. In August of the same year, the coach station did the same. The move provided coach connections to the Walachian post of Varciorova and the postal routes to Targu-Jiu (north), Craiova and Tantareni (east), and Calafat, Izvoarele (Gruia), Izlaz, and Bechet (southeast). As a result of lengthy diplomatic negotiations begun in 1838 by Nicolae Mavros, the Inspector-General of Quarantines, Turnu-Severin became a port of call of the DDSG (The Danube Steamship Navigation Co., an Austrian enterprise) in 1851. As a consequence, the new port, and a shipyard as well, took shape and gained prominence. The agency's offices, in fact, opened right next door to the quarantine.

2. Izvoarele, Mehedinti County (Trade Fair 1830-1847)

This village, an old settlement on the Danube, had a trade fair located two kilometers to the north, below the island of Ostrovul-Mare. It was opposite Palamka-Praovo, the Serbian quarantine near Negotin — on the Danube's south bank. As a third-class establishment, Izvoarele's quarantine had six employees working under the supervision of Eustatie Gramaticeanu and secretary K. Kokolos. It possessed the necessary apparatus for fumigation of correspondence; certifications were mandatory.

Because of financial losses incurred

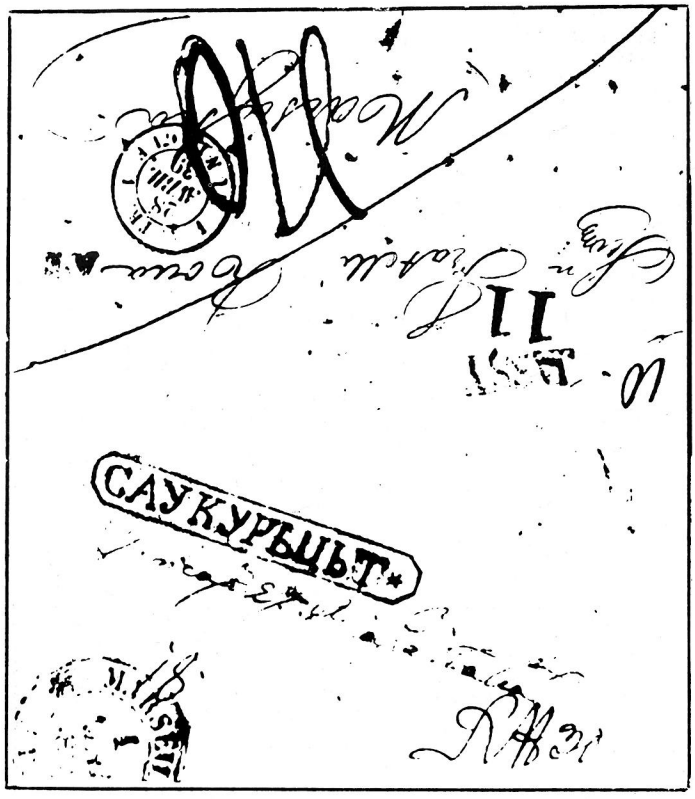

Figure 13.

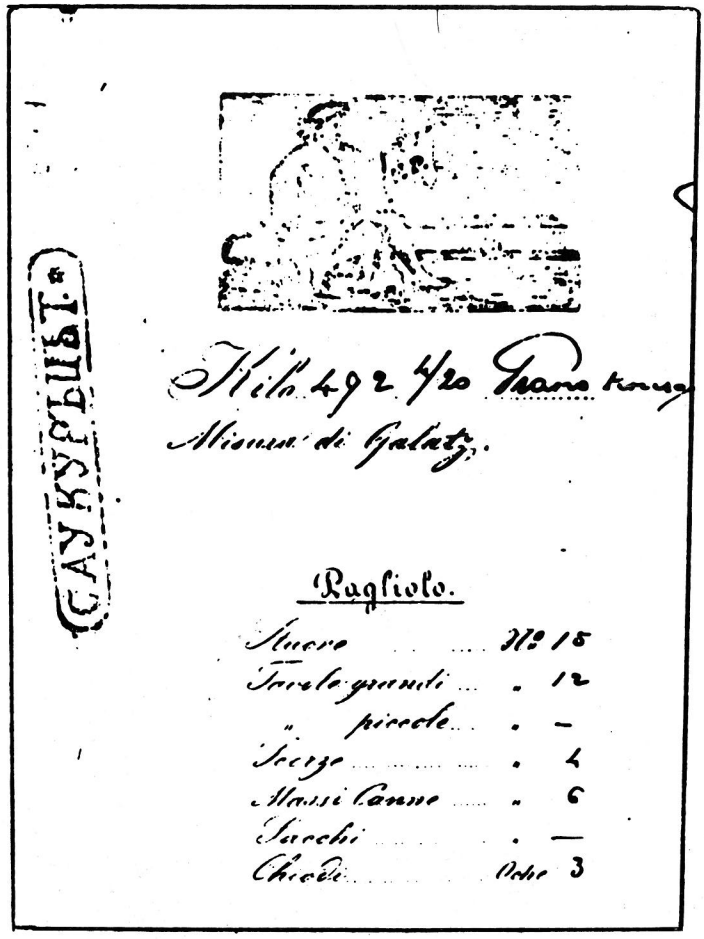

Figure 14.

between 1836-1839 (20,994 lei), officials considered moving this quarantine in 1840. But it was not until July 1847, after the move of its Serbian Palamka-Praovo counterpart, that the Izvoarele facilities were moved to a site four kilometers south of Gruia. This township, noted for vestiges of Roman fortifications, had a landing facility and was a frontier guard unit station. A year later, Gruia received its own cachets and seals (see K-48, Karantina Gruia) and became a new quarantine opposite the Serbian one in Rudavata-Srovles.

3. Piua-Pietri, Ialomita County (Trade Fair 1830-1834)

A settlement on the Danube's left bank, near the ruins of Cetatea de Flote, Piua-Pietri possessed landing facilities (mainly for the river-transported salt) and a secondary terminal coach station connecting with the Braila-Slobozia route. Its third-class health station, some distance from the village proper, was close to the frontier guard-post on the island of Gasca and faced the Harsova (Dobrudja) landing's trade fair on the right bank of the Danube.

Theodor Ghitescu, its head official, suggested a move to a more appropriate location, nearer to the river bank (February 1832). The move actually occurred in July 1834, to a site three kilometers north, a brick building in Gura Ialomitei. This location is not far from the frontier guard-post of Vadul-Oii, a traditional crossing point of Transylvanian shepherds with their flocks. The six employees, under Dimitrie Masuridis, used the old seal and cachet until 1841, when Piua-Pietri received its own (see K-41, Gura Ialomitei).

The First Romanian Map of the Postal Routes and Quarantines in Walachia

Well known collectors and authors Rudolph Zoscsak, Fritz Baur, Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici, K.F. Meyer, Gabriel Sassower, Dr. L.N. Cristea, and others have researched Romanian disinfected mail markings. The actual philatelic items are scarce. They not only had to have been saved in the first place but also had to have withstood the ravages of war, natural disasters, and as many as 150 years of time.

Accordingly, the study of the seals and cachets has been restricted, and many have not yet been recorded. K.F. Meyer's basic treatise detailed only six such markings for Walachia (K-30 — Giurgiu; K-30d — Giurgiu; K-30d — Zimnicea; K-38 — Turnu Severin; K-45 — Braila, and K-50 — Zimnicea), and some of these were not fully or correctly described.

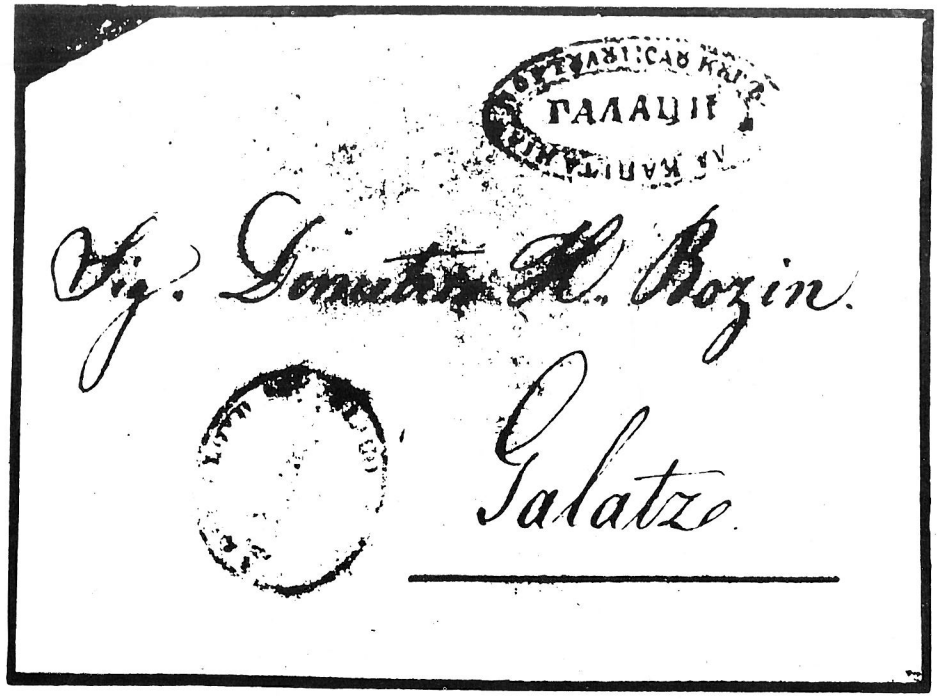

Figure 15.

In 1831 a booklet (a pocket almanac and tourist guide) appeared in Bucharest and soon was entirely forgotten. With only one copy known to exist today, it might never have resurfaced had it not been for its map annex. The map, worked out by Grigore Plesoianu and drawn by the lithographer G.C. Heinrich, is the first in Romanian (written with Cyrillic lettering) showing postal routes and quarantine locations in Walachia (Figure 2). It was first mentioned in 1967 in *An Unknown Romanian Map* by N.A. Ursu and V. Sficlea, and described a year later in *A Map of Outstanding Value of Walachia of 1831* by V. Sficlea. However, it has never before been reproduced except in the Romanian philatelic magazine *Filatelia.*

Classification and Table K (Figure 3)

The state archives in Bucharest hold thousands of thick files describing day-

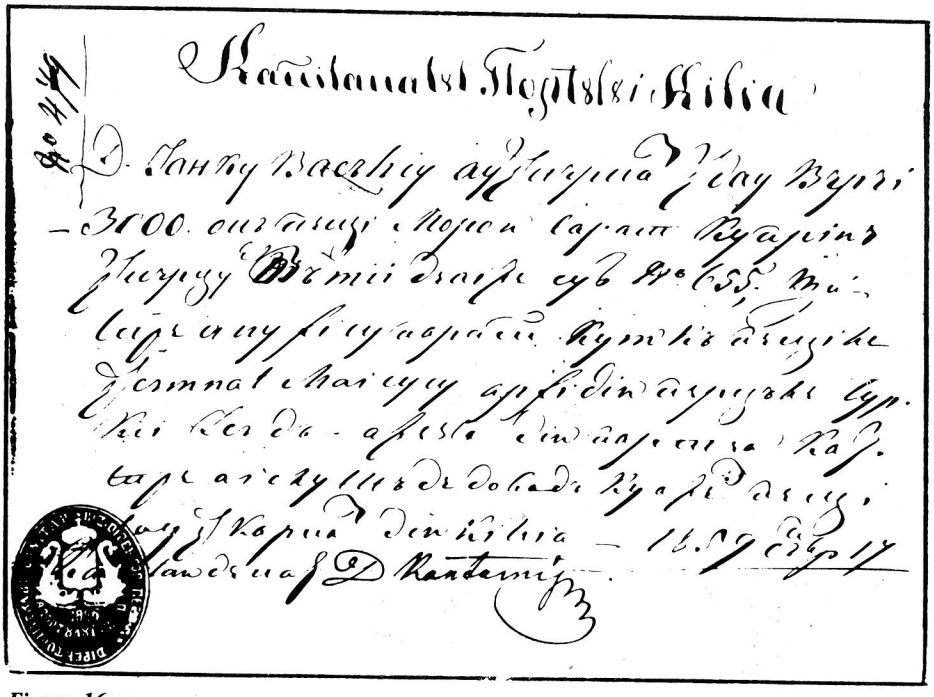

Figure 16.

to-day activities of the quarantines since their inception. Having gone through some of these documents, I now can present a summary of data concerning the 1830-1859 quarantine seals and cachets.

In the system of classification I have adopted, "K" stands for quarantine and the two numerals following it represent the year of introduction of the seal or cachet; lower case letters represent subtypes when similar styles were used by more than one type of station.

Similarly, seals and cachets of the Central Committee of Quarantines are prefixed by "KA," and those of the frontier guards by "VD" (Danube) or "VK" (Carpathian). The classification for frontier guards omits the year of introduction and represents subtypes with lower case letters.

In Figure 3, all markings with the same number are from the same year, and those with the same symbol (for example "K-59") appear in the same column. An exception is made for the markings of 1830 which have five distinct groups: K-30, common quarantines; K-30a, quarantines in Moldavia; K-30b, second-class quarantines; K-30c, trade fair quarantines; and K-30d, head offices.

I have been able to list fifty-three seals and cachets of quarantines in Walachia and fourteen in Moldavia. A black dot indicates a seal or cachet already discovered; a dotted circle represents a quarantine, the existence of which is known, but a seal or cachet for which has yet to be found; "X" indicates no quarantine station existed there at that time. Figure 3 lists quarantines of 1830-1859 in geographic sequence along the Danube, and their seals in chronological order.

Quarantine Seals and Cachets

1. K-30 — Piua-Pietri type

Circular cachet (24 mm. in diameter); eagle with cross in its beak, wings spread, and head turned to its left; with sun above it and base with plants below; no indication of year; KARANTINA Pio Petri (in soot or wax, with old spelling). This type of seal or cachet was in use in twelve Walachian quarantines:

Cerneti	Zimnicea
Izvoarele	Giurgiu
Calafat	Oltenita
Bechet	Calarasi
Izlaz	Piua-Pietri
Turnu	Braila

Figure 17. K-30 Cerneti

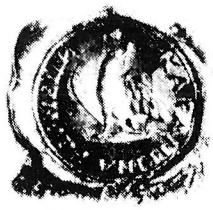

Figure 18. K-30 Cerneti

Figure 19. K-30 Izvoarele

Figure 20. K-30 Calafat

Figure 21. K-30 Zimnicea

Figure 22. K-30 Zimnicea

Figure 23. K-30 Giurgiu

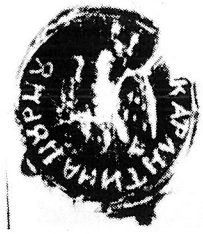

Figure 24. K-30 Giurgiu

Figure 25. K-30 Calarasi

Figure 26. K-30 Piua-Pietri

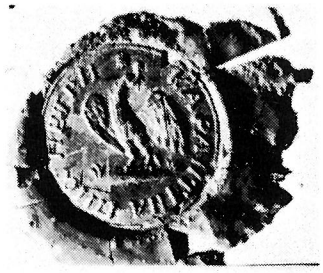

Figure 27. K-30 Piua-Pietri

Figure 28. K-30 Braila

Varieties: K-30 KARANTINA KALAFAT 1830. Beside the year, a circle of fifty-six pearls, and to the left of the base, the initials of the engraver, "N.A.P." Early date: August 4, 1830. Item: K-30 KARANTINA KALARASI, head turned to its right, no pearls, letter "D."

As can be seen in the accompanying illustrations and their translations, the K-30 seals and cachets certify the quarantines' fumigation of letters:

Figure 4 — S-au curatit la carantina

Izvoarele, 1837 ian. 31. (Purified in Izvoarele quarantine, 1837, January 31);
Figure 5 — S-au afumat la carantina Zimnicea, 1838, apr. 26 (Fumigated in Zimnicea Quarantine, 1838, April 26);
Figure 6 — Karantina Giurgiu, la 1 iunie 1858. S-au curatat acest couvert dupa pravila carantineasca. Io:ki: (Ioan Kiropsis), (Giurgiu Quarantine, June 1, 1858. Purified present cover according to quarantine regulations) (Fritz Heimbuchler collection).

2. K-30a
See the following "Moldavian Quarantines" section.

3a. K-30b — Cerneti second-class type
Circular seal or cachet (32 mm. in diameter); eagle with crown on its head and cross in its beak, head turned to its right; legend in Cyrillic lower case

Figure 29. K-30b Cerneti

italics; date under the base. Such seals and cachets were used in Cerneti and Zimnicea. Figure 7 is the Karantina de al 2-lea Klas Cerneti 1830 (Quarantine of the second-class Cerneti 1830).

3b. K-30b — Turnu second-class type
Similar to K-30a, but larger (35 mm. in diameter); eagle's head turned to its left; legend in Cyrillic capitals, as "KARANTINA TURNULUI AL 2: KLAS" (Quarantine of Turnu of the second class). Used by Turnu and Kalarasi.

4. K-30c — Turnu "Trade fair" type
Circular seal or cachet (35 mm. in diameter); eagle with cross in its beak, wings spread, and head turned to its left; framed 1830; legend in Cyrillic

Figure 30. K-30c Turnu

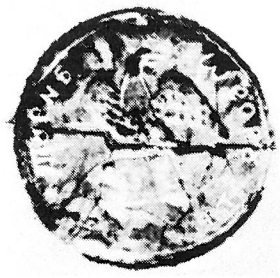

Figure 31. K-30c Turnu

capitals, "OBORU DE SCHIMB TURNU" (Trade Fair Turnu). This type was used in Bechet, Izlaz, Turnu, Oltenita, and Piua-Pietri.

5. K-30d — Directia Giurgiu (Main Office Giurgiu) type
Circular seal or cachet (37 mm. in diameter) with triple frame; eagle with crown on its head and cross in its beak, wings spread, head turned to its left; framed date "1830"; laurel garland; in-

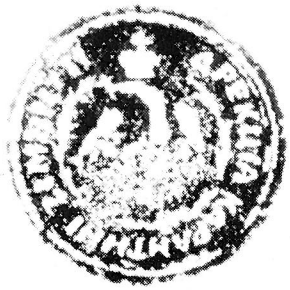

Figure 32. K-30d Zimnicea

Figure 33. K-30d Giurgiu

Figure 34. K-30d Braila

scription "DREKTIA KARANTINI GIURGIU" (Figure 8). This type was used in Cerneti, Izvoarele, Calafat (Dr. L.N. Cristea collection), Zimnicea, Giurgiu, Calarasi, and Braila.

6a. K-31 — Directia Zimnicea
Circular seal/cachet (33 mm. in diameter); with date (1831); eagle with crown on its head and cross in its beak, with sceptre and sword, wings spread and head turned to its left; in the legend

Figure 35. K-31 Zimnicea

"DIRECTIA KARANTINI ZIMNICI," in Cyrillic italics, both the letters "i" and the numeral "1" show a dot on the top (Figure 9, Dr. N. Tripcovici collection).

6b. K-31 — Calafat type
Circular seal/cachet (30 mm. in diameter); atop crossed gun barrels and panoply of flags and weapons, an eagle with crown on its head and cross in its beak, with head turned to its left; under

Figure 36. K-31 Calafat

Figure 37. K-32 Galati I

Figure 38. K-32 Galati I

guns a drum between cannonballs and below drum "1831"; legend in Cyrillic capitals, "KARANTINA KALAFATU 1831."

A similar seal/cachet exists for Gruia (see K-48).

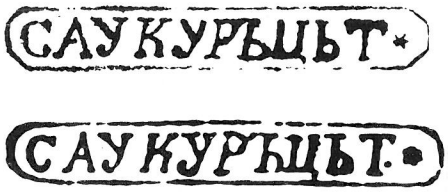

Figure 39. K-33-I Galati I; K-33-II, Galati I

7. K-36 — Punct Izlaz (Point Izlaz)

Circular seal/cachet (28 mm. in diameter); eagle with head turned to its right, crown on its head, cross in its beak, wings spread, on base under which is "1836." Legend in Cyrillic

Figure 40. K-36 Izlaz

italics, "PUNCT IZLAZ 1836." This seal or cachet was used for customs, frontier guard, as well as for quarantine purposes.

8. K-38 — Turnu Severin type

Circular seal/cachet (32 mm. in diameter); eagle with crown on its head, cross in its beak, head turned to its right; base with 1838 below; single frame. Inscription in Cyrillic italics

Figure 41. K-38 Turnu Severin

Figure 42. K-40 Galati II

(hammered by hand), "KARANTINA TURNU SEVERIN." Earliest known date: October 28, 1838.

Example: "S-au afumat la Karantina Severin. Director Vasile Stambeanu 1839 mai 4." (Fumigated in Quarantine Severin. Director Vasile Stambeanu 1839 May 4) (Figure 10).

9. K-41 — Karantina Gura Ialomiti

Like K-38, but oval (30 mm. x 26 mm.).

Figure 43. K-41 Gura Ialomiti

10. K-42 — Braila Port

Oval seal/cachet (31 mm. x 35 mm.); eagle with crown on its head, cross in its beak, head turned to its left, wings spread; sceptre and sword; inscription

Figure 44. K-42 Braila

in Cyrillic capitals, "PRINCIPATUL TARII ROMANESTI KARATIN. PORTUL BRAILA."

Figure 45. K-44 Galati II

11. K-45 — Sau Kuratit Braila (purified in Braila)

Rectangular cachet (36 mm. x 16 mm.); legend in Cyrillic capitals in two

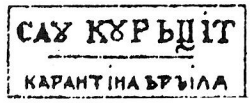

Figure 46. K-45 Braila

lines — first with larger characters, "SAU KURATIT," second with smaller, "KARANTINA BRAILA" (Figure 11).

12. K-48 — Karantina Gruia

Seal or cachet similar to K-31 (34 mm.), but with 1848. Established July 1, 1847, in Gruia village, Mehedinti

Figure 47. K-48 Gruia

County. Until 1848, Gruia quarantine used the seals formerly in use at Izvoarele station, K-30 and K-30d.

13. K-50 — Sau Kuratit Zimnicea (purified in Zimnicea)

Circular cachet (33 mm. in diameter); eagle with crown on its head, cross in its beak, head turned to its left; with sceptre and sword; no date.

Figure 48. K-50 Zimnicea

Legend with Cyrillic capitals, "SAU KURATIT LA KARANTINA ZIMNICEA."

Known on letter of April 24, 1851, from Bulgaria to Bucharest (Figure 12).

14. K-51 — type of Directia Oltenita (Main Office Oltenita)

Circular seal/cachet (31 mm. in diameter); eagle with crown on its head,

Figure 49. K-51 Oltenita

cross in its beak, head turned to its left, wings spread; with the legend, "DIREKTIA KARANTINI OLTENITA 1851."

15. K-52 — type of Stirbei

Oval seal or cachet (30 mm. x 26

Figure 50. K-52 Stirbei

mm.); eagle with crown on its head, cross in its beak, head turned to its right; on base with 1852 below. Legend in Cyrillic capitals, "KARANTINA NOULUI ORAS STIRBEI" (Quarantine of the new town Stirbei).

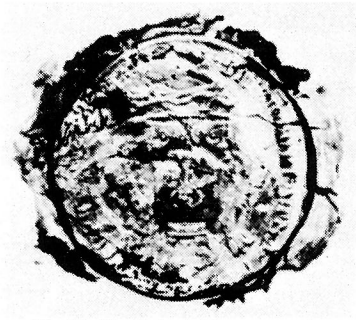

Figure 51. K-55 Galati II

Figure 52. K-56 Chilia

16. K-57 — Directia Bechet (Main Office Bechet)

Circular seal (32 mm. in diameter); eagle with crown on its head, cross in its beak, head turned to its right, wings

Figure 53. K-57 Bechet

spread; base; framed 1857; two laurel twigs. Legend in Cyrillic italics, "DIREKTIA KARANTINI BIKET 1857."

17. K-59 — type of Principatele Unite (United Principalities)

The diversity of shapes of the quarantine seals and cachets came to an end in 1859, the year of the union of the Romanian Principalities of Moldavia and Walachia. From then on, all quarantines received identical seals/cachets.

Figure 54. K-59 Gruia

Figure 55. K-59 Calafat

Figure 56. K-59 Bechet

Figure 57. K-59 Turnu

K-59 is a circular seal/cachet (40.5 mm.); eagle with crown on its head, cross in its beak, head turned to its left, with sceptre and sword. Legend in Roman capitals, "PRINCIPATELE UNITE" (above) with stars at left, and at right, "KARANTINA . . . ." (below). Illustrated are Gruia, Calafat, Bechet, and Turnu seals. Additional ones are known for: Turnu Severin, Gruia, Calafat, Bechet, Turnu, Zimnicea, Giurgiu, Oltenita, Stirbei, and Gura Ialomiti.

Central Administration's Seals and Cachets

The Central Committee of Quarantines and the General Inspectorate Quarantines, both headquartered in Bucharest, used their own seals and cachets on both official letters and documents.

18. KA-30 — committee seals and cachets

Oval seal (30 mm. x 35 mm.); eagle with cross in its beak, wings spread,

Figure 58. KA-30 Komitet

and head turned to its left; framed year (1830). Legend in Cyrillic capitals, "KOMITETUL KARANTINELOR" (Quarantine Committee).

19. KA-31 — inspectorate seals and cachets

Circular (42 mm. in diameter). At left: over gun barrels and drum, eagle with cross and crown, with wings spread, and its head turned to its left.

Figure 59. KA-31 Inspektorat

At right: surrounded by dolphins and over sword and war-mace, bull's head with star and crown. Legend abbreviated in Cyrillic italics, "OBSTIA (sca) INSPEK (torie) (a) KARAN (tinelor) DIN PRINCI (patele) MOLDA (via) si VALAH (ia)" (General Inspectorate of Quarantines in the Principalities of Moldavia and Walachia).

20. KA-38 — Severin type medical seal/cachet

Oval (24 mm. x 26 mm.); eagle with cross and crown, with wings spread and head turned to its left; below it are initials of doctor, "G.M.," with legend in Cyrillic italics, "G. MEDRU, DOCTOR KAR. T. SEVERIN."

Frontier Guards' Seals and Cachets

"Border villages" provided 263 stations with guards to the Danube health cordon. A "roata," a small unit under an officer's command served at each such port, landing, or customs point. Having seventeen to twenty-four pickets, each unit, in turn, belonged to one of the three border battalions. In towns along the Danube, the various services of port administration, quarantine, military, postal, etc., were independent of each other, but nevertheless still collaborated. The roata cachets or seals (each unit bore its own assigned number) thus can be found on letters or documents next to those of quarantines and postal captains. During a later period, they exist side by side with linear postal markings (on prephilatelic, or "stampless" covers), lending them a philatelic interest.

21. VD — Danube military units' seals and cachets

VD seals/cachets are known from: Severin, Gruia, Calafat, Bechet, Turnu, Zimnicea, Giurgiu, Oltenita, Stirbei, Gura Ialomiti, Politesti, and Braila. These can further be subdivided as follows:

21a. VDa — Bechet type

Oval (33 mm. x 23 mm.); eagle with crown on its head and cross in its beak, sceptre and sword, with wings spread and head turned to its right. Legend

Figure 60. VDa Bechet Punkt

in Cyrillic italics, on the top, "PUNKTUL BEKETU" (Point Bechet); on the bottom, "ROATA 4a DIN BATALIONUL 1 DE GRANICERI" (in three lines) (4th Unit in Battalion 1 of the Frontier Guards).

21b. VDb — Gura Ialomiti type

Circular (32 mm. in diameter); eagle

Figure 61. VDb Gura Ialomiti Punkt

with crown and cross, head turned to its left. Legend in Cyrillic capitals; on the top, "PUNKTUL GURA IALOMITA"; on the bottom, "ROATA 10 DIN BAT. MP DE GRANICERI."

22. VK — Carpathian military units' seals and cachets

VK seals/cachets are known from: Virciorova, Sadu, Riul Vadului, Giuvala, Petrosita, Predeal, Bratocea, Buliga, and Focsani.

Moldavian Quarantines and Their Seals and Cachets, 1830-1859

The Quarantine Regulation of December 1829 provided a first-class quarantine for Galatz, the only Danube port serving the Moldavian Principality at that time. Galatz thus was the thirteenth and last Romanian quarantine on the Danube line. Farther down the river were other stations (then under foreign control) in Reni, Ismail, Chilia, Vilcov, Tulcea, and Sulina.

Galatz appears for the first time as a quarantine on Plesoianu's map of 1831, and again is mentioned by the postal and quarantine maps of 1836 and 1837 edited by Zaharia Karkaleki, and later by others.

Sanitary services in Galatz were under the direct control of the Quarantine Department of Galatz, which in turn was governed by the supreme authority — "The Health Committee" in Jassy — and, indirectly, also was under the supervision of the General Inspectorate of the Quarantines in Bucharest. In fact, Galatz housed five distinct units in charge of quarantine regulations: the Quarantine Department, the Tziglina Quarantine, the Port Captain's Office, and two trade fairs (each one in charge of a special government official). Of these only two were functional — Tziglina Quarantine and the Port Captain's Office.

On land the Moldavian "Cordon Sanitaire" was secured by eleven frontier guard posts; on the river, by the Galatz port captain — with his forty gendarmes and twenty marines (with small boats).

The Health Committee, founded in 1830, was the central authority in Jassy. Under its control were regional organs in Botosani, Jassy, Birlad, and Galatz. Its executive committee included the Minister of Internal Affairs, the head of the Army, and the chief of the Public Health Office. The "Organic Regulations" (constitution) of Moldavia, Article 175, defined its prerogatives: "This Committee will handle and supervise all cases connected with Quarantines and, on behalf of the Government, may open temporary quarantines anywhere in the Principalities where contamination danger appears."

The Quarantine Department (GALATZ)

Basically, Article 178 authorized this department as the coordinating organ between the Health Committee and the station in Galatz and, after 1856, of all Moldavian Danube ports. Its main task was insuring "detailed enforcement and supervision of health regulations." Its headquarters was in the Tziglina Quarantine. A director, a deputy-director (Iordache Kapsa), and a chief-doctor (Dr. Abegg) headed it. When Tziglina Quarantine was closed in 1854, the Department, under the new title of "Galatz Port Sanitary Directorate" (and with reduced tasks), moved within the port area. Iordache Kapsa, the former deputy-director was promoted to director, and the former "border commissar," Dimitrie Kantemir, assumed Kapsa's old position.

A princely decree stated that the tasks of this Directorate were to maintain correspondence and contact with the Health Committee and "other places" (consulates and foreign agencies) concerning all port traffic, etc. In 1856 it was renamed "The Sanitary Directorate of the Moldavian Danube Ports" (Galatz, Reni, Ismail). With the death, on July 1, 1860, of Iordache Kapsa, the directorate was closed and "the office with all its tasks and documents was taken over by the Port Captain's Office."

Galatz Quarantine (Galatz I, Tziglina Quarantine)

In 1830 the quarantine was situated away from the port and town on the grounds of the Mavromolu Monastary on Tziglina Hill (on the road to Braila), today known as the Tziglina District of the Galatz Municipality. Construction of the quarantine already had started in 1830 "with sufficient space for staff and travelers, and ample warehouses,

hospital, eating facilities, etc., according to a definite plan . . . to insure good functioning and hinder unwanted contacts," in accord with the health rules of the 1829 Quarantine Statute and the 1830 Organic Regulations as elaborated by the Russian Occupation Authorities. In 1854 the Tziglina Quarantine was closed and its building taken over by the Public Works Ministry.

Galatz Port (Galatz II)

Even before 1830, an Austrian-type quarantine service existed here. It was in contact, for sea-service, with the maritime quarantine of Sulina. In 1830, the port of Galatz came under the jurisdiction of the Galatz Quarantine Department and thus was organized according to the Quarantine Statute and the Organic Regulations.

Decision No. 2846 of 1844 of the Galatz Port Captain's Office introduced new health regulations:

— If Turkey was not a contaminated area, on arrival of any ship, just its owner was called to the Captain's Office with all documents concerning the crew and cargo, parcels, and letters. The Port Captain (or his representative) then purified these, handling them with "iron tongs."

— If Constantinople was reported contaminated, the crew and passengers were summoned to medical examinations in port, done in such a way that newcomers did not mingle with any healthy people.

— In cases of death on board or suspected contagious disease, the ship was isolated and all of the crew and passengers were subjected to quarantine regulations on ship, until a decision could be made by the Quarantine Directorate.

Ships proceeding up the Danube from the sea underwent the required inspection in Galatz Port; no ship could tie up in a port farther up the river, toward Orsova, without a "health certificate for people, goods and correspondence." Goods (especially those brought in from Turkey via Galatz) obtained the right to pass only after having undergone quarantine regulations and having been provided with a "purification seal." The significance of Galatz Port was enhanced by the closing of Tziglina Station (1854) and (six years later) of the Health Port Directorate. After 1860, the health service was taken over, as in other Danube ports, by the Port Captain's Office.

The Trade Barriers

In Galatz two trade barrier (fair) facilities were instituted for goods used by the population close to the river. Such goods otherwise would have been exempt from purification regulations. At these barriers, however, neither ship crews and passengers, nor parcels and correspondence, actually had to disembark.

One such facility was between Tziglina Hill (Quarantine) and the town (port), and the second, farther south, was at the entrance to Galatz from Bratesh Lake. The barrier markets were placed under the supervision of a "commissar" and controlled by the Galatz Quarantine Directorate.

The Quarantines of the Landing Stations at Reni, Ismail, and Chilia

By the Peace Treaty of Paris (March 18-30, 1856), Moldavia recovered the countries of Bolgrad, Ismail, and Cahul (all in Southern Bessarabia). The ports of Reni, Ismail, and Chilia thus once more came under Romanian administration. Although the territorial administrative authority was the Ismail "Prefecture," and the sanitary authority, the Health Port Directorate of Galatz, the captains of these ports nevertheless contacted, for their various problems, the Health Committee in Jassy (known examples: report No. 508 of October 8, 1859, of Capt. Reni-Port, Dimitrie Logadi; Capt. Al. Cilibidachi for Ismail; and Capt. Dimitrie Kantemir for Chilia).

Their payrolls give an indication of the quarantines' importance: Galatz — 64,834 lei (including the Health Directorate); Ismail — 27,400 lei; Reni — 16,400 lei; Chilia — 16,400 lei. No documents have been found with the cleansing or fumigation markings from these last three ports.

Beginning in 1860, Vilcov (on the left bank of the Chilia arm of the Danube Delta) came into the picture (with temporary quarantine facilities in 1866) as a transit point for passengers coming from Turkey.

The Seals and Cachets of Moldavia

In Galatz, two types of health seals existed: I — Galatz-Quarantine (used by the Health Department and the Tziglina Quarantine); and II — Galatz-Port (used by the Captain's Office and the Port Health Directorate).

In 1830, with the establishment of the Danube health line, "health seals or cachets" for Galatz were ordered. Two were of the K-30a type, for the Tziglina Quarantine and for the Captain's Office, and a third was of K-30d type, for the Quarantine Department. These have not yet been found and their existence is considered presumptive (marked with a dotted circle in Figure 3).

Two years later, Galatz-Quarantine came under the jurisdiction of the "Organic Regulations." In 1832 type K-32 seals and cachets came into use. These markings may also have been used for already purified mail.

The first seals and cachets with the words "S-au curatit" (cleansed or purified) are catalogued as K-33-I (found on mail handled in Tziglina Quarantine) and K-33-II (found on commercial documents from Galatz-Port). Another, catalogued as K-44, with the words "S-au curatit la Capitania Portului Galatz" (Purified by the Captain of Galatz-Port), appears as a logical sequence to Decision No. 2846/1844, extending the authority of the Captain's Office.

An impressive seal and cachet (catalogued as K-40 and similar to those used in Braila) was used by the Captain's Office. Of outstanding interest also are the K-36 seals and cachets of the Health Directorate of the Galatz-Port (two seals and cachets were paid for, conform file No. 5878/1856). These are found on health documents of the new port health authorities of Reni, Ismail, and Chilia. Until 1860, these ports did not have their own seals/cachets. In his report No. 571 of October 26, 1856, the captain of the Chilia-Port asked the "Health Committee" for two seals, one to use ink, the other wax. He stated that despite previous repeated requests, these seals were not approved, and private seals had to be used. Indeed, between 1856-1860, K-36 was used in Chilia. The Moldavian health seals and cachets (as catalogued in Figure 3) are as follows:

1. K-32 Galatz Quarantine

Oval seal (40 mm. x 34 mm.); rectangular escutcheon with country's coat of arms (bull's head with star between horns) between two dolphins; from top left to bottom right, six twigs and an axe; from top right to bottom left, an anchor; below the dolphins, the year "1832"; inscription in manuscript Cyrillic, "Pecetea Karantinei de la Galati" (Seal of the Galatz Quarantine).

Reference item (not illustrated): Report No. 3 of November 15, 1834, of the Department of Galatz Quarantine to Hon. General Inspectorate of the Danube Line Quarantines of both Principalities. This cover was cleansed and then sealed with K-32.

NOTE: A similar seal — KA-32 —

exists, differing only in its inscription, "Pecetea Komitetului Sanatatii din Esi" (Seal of the Health Committee in Jassy).

2. K-33-I Galatz Quarantine

Rectangular cachet (58.5 mm. x 8.5 mm.) with cut corners; shaded letters in soot or ink; inscription in Cyrillic slanted capitals, "SAU KURATAT" (cleansed), followed by a star. Figure 13 shows a letter from "Dal lazzareto Galatz, 6 April 1839" addressed to "Signor Fratelli Rona, Marsilia" (in France). With K-33-I in black ink, its manuscript text in Cyrillic translates as: "839. March 27. Galatz Quarantine" and an additional notation (probably added in transit by the BOIAN Austrian Quarantine) reads: "R N 30" (Raucher Nummer 30) (G. Sassower collection).

3. K-33-II Galatz Port

Similar to K-33-I but slightly longer (60 mm. x 8.5 mm.) and with rounded corners; after the last letter, a period and a six-pointed star. Figure 14 shows part of a bill of lading of Fratelli Pedemonte, of April 3/15, 1846, with K-33-II in black ink.

4. K-35 Galatz

Oval seal (28 mm. x 32 mm.); hexagonal escutcheon with bull's head and star, coat-of-arms, supported by gun barrels and flanked by cannon balls; above, flag with tassels and crown with cross; around, the inscription "PRINCIPATUL MOLDAVII — KARANTINA GALATI" (Moldavian Principality — Galatz Quarantine) in Cyrillic lower case letters.

Reference item (not illustrated): Dr. Abegg's report No. 13 of May 3, 1839, to the Health Committee in Jassy, with K-35.

5. K-40 Galatz Port Quarantine

Oval seal-cachet for soot or ink (31 mm. x 35 mm.); escutcheon with bull's head and star (at left) and crowned, rampant lion (at right); sword is surrounded by an olive branch (the family coat-of-arms of Prince Mihail Sturdza); above, a crown with cross; on each side, a dolphin. Inscription in Cyrillic capitals: on the top, "PRINCIPATUL MOLDABBIII"; on the bottom, in two lines, "KARANTINA PORTULUI GALATAI 1840."

Reference item (not illustrated): Report No. 912 of May 8, 1847, from the Directorate of the Galatz Quarantine to the Health Committee of the Moldavian Principality.

6. K-44 Galatz, Double Oval

Double frames (42 x 21 and 33 x 13 mm.); inscription's letters in thick Cyrillic capitals, "SAU KURATIT LA KAPITANIA PORTULUI" and in the middle, "GALATII." Figure 15 shows a letter dated 1852, from Constantinople to Galatz, which also bears the oval marking "AGENZIA DEL LLOYD AUSTRIACO (Austrian Lloyd Agency). On arrival it received K-44 in green ink (G. Sassower collection).

7. K-55 Galatz Directorate

Circular seal (33 mm. in diameter); in center, escutcheon with bull's head and star; above, crown with cross; on each side, a dolphin; on the bottom, seaman's tools; inscription in Cyrillic capitals, "DIREKTORIATUL SANITAR AL KARANT. GALATZ. 1855."

8a. K-56 Galatz Port Directorate

Oval seal (33 mm. x 40 mm.); escutcheon with unidentified symbols; above, crown with cross; dolphin on each side; below, year date "1856"; inscription in Cyrillic capitals, "DIREKTORUL PECETEA DIREKTORATULUI SANITAR AL PORTULUI GALATI 1856."

8b. K-56 Chilia

Oval seal (33 mm. x 40 mm.) similar to K-56 (Galatz), but its inscription reads, "VICE DIREKTOR. PECETEA DIREKTORATULUI SANITAR A PORTULUI GALATI. 1856." Not known from Galatz itself; this seal was used, however, at "KILIA" (Chilia) between 1856-1860 by Capt. D. Kantemir, former deputy director of Galatz who had been appointed director of Chilia Port, because Chilia had no seal of its own. Figure 16 shows a certificate issued by "The Captain of Chilia Port," September 17, 1859, signed by the port captain D. Kantemir and certified with the K-56 seal in soot (Dr. L.N. Cristea collection).

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More on ROMANIAN STAMPS PRINTED IN RUSSIA

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This article supplements the issues on this subject first raised by Barbu Popescu in Romanian Philatelic Studies, No. 3 of 1979.

Besides the single design utilized for all 8 values of this set (issued for postage), at least one other (Fig. 1) was prepared but not adopted. This essay illustrated here belongs to the Nicolae Teodorescu (of Piatra Neamt, Romania) collection. The designs have identical portraits of King Ferdinand and both show the same solemn and dignified style. The differences between the two lies in their ornamental frames and that on the essay, the value is shown twice in its lower corners. Also the essay bears the imprint of the designer's name, HORATIU DIMITRIU, in the lower right margin corner.

Fig. 1

To show the graphic relation between the postage stamps and the essay we illustrate 10 Bani (Fig. 2) and 50 Bani banknotes (Fig. 3). These notes were

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

issued in 1917 by the Romanian government in Jassy, during WW I. The similarity of the effigies of King Ferdinand and the same graphic style of the ornamental frames is evident. The 50 Bani banknote has the full name of its designer, the same HORATIU SAVA DIMITRIU, in its lower

Fig. 4

right corner. The two banknotes were printed in Romania, by the Geographical Service of the Romanian Army in Jassy. For further comparison and to emphasize some differences, we show enlarged (Fig. 4) a 30 Bani revenue stamp (required on certain official applications, documents certified by notary public, etc.), ordered in Moscow at the same time as the postage stamps. The design of this stamp is less severe than that of the postage stamps, and the style is more baroque. Nevertheless, we presume it was likewise done by Horatiu Sava Dimitriu.

It seems that some essays of the fiscal stamp were delivered with the first batch of postage stamps sent from Moscow to the Romanian government in Jassy. I possess an imperforate block of 4, in olive brown. I have neither seen nor heard of other similar items.

Худ Тип. Амер. № 5.

Fig. 5

Also illustrated here (Fig. 5) is the lower part of a sheet of the 35 Bani stamp. Its inscription in Cyrillic letters reads: HUD TIP. AMER. No. 5. This imprint's typeset and its text differs from that of the previously illustrated 25 Bani stamps which reads: HUD. TIP. AMERIK. No. 7. This entitles us to believe that this order was executed by at least two different sections of the same printing plant.

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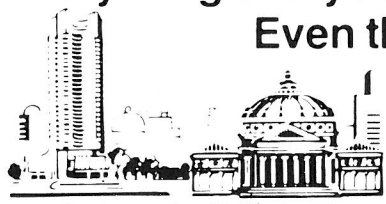

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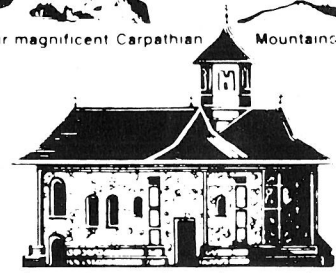

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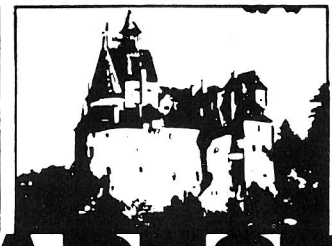

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MORE ABOUT NUMERAL MARKINGS

(and about other, possibly related matters)

GABRIEL SASSOWER, 13 Belsize Road, London HW6 4RX, England.

Whatever meaning these handstamps might have had in other periods (see Mr. S. Dragomir's articles in Filatelia No. 4/1976 and bulletin No. 1/1978), it is certain that during the first world war months of September, October, November and December 1917, when applied on the thirty six postcards and one envelope I examined (four being illustrations/photocopies), they did not represent identification numbers of particular mailmen at Iasi, as alleged by Mr. L. Rothman in bulletin No. 4/1978 (and Filatelia No. 3/1977 - I take it that Ing. Ladislau R. is in fact Mr. Rothman), when reporting about similar material. What do then these numbers indicate? Quite simply, days of the month, as the table, to which all the following details refer, clearly demonstrates; it seems to me that drawing attention to the, in my view, important points emerging from the table, would clarify matters best:

A. The numerals now examined always follow, by one day, the date of the Iasi postmark on the respective item.

B. In case of postmarks of other Romanian localities showing, the same rule applies i.e. it is still the Iasi marking the one calling the tune; should two handstmaps be struck in this town, upon the same postcard, the last dated is the relevant one, see items 'g' and 'n'.

C. The BIROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA BUCURESTI-SCRISORI is, in the majority of the cases, dated about one month after the above referred to Iasi handstamp.

D. The PETROGRAD postmark carries always the latest date; here one must remember that the Russians still used the Julian calendar which was thirteen days behind the Gregorian calendar, used by the Romanians. Wherever the lower part of this handstamp is visible, the inscription reads EKSP, indicating forwarding. Some items ('j', 'k'), show, simultaneously, differently dated handstamps of this town.

E. The items do not display postal markings, of any description, applied after those of Petrograd.

F. All the items are addressed to the Red Cross, Switzerland; part of the written texts read almost as a formula: ". . . please transmit the message/contents to destination. . .".

I would comment as follows:

1. The numeral markings, during the period in question, can range only from 1 (the day after the last day of the previous month) to 31 (the day after a month having 30 days)

2. Regardless whether of military or civilian origin, the mail was centralized at Iasi and, due to the war situation, sent, as known, via Russia to Switzerland. Interesting to note that the system continued to operate even after the October revolution, see dates of the Petrograd postmarks.

3. During the period now under consideration, the BIROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA BUCURESTI-SCRISORI date stamp was obviously not in Bucharest, by now under occupation, but taken to somewhere in Moldavia, possibly Iasi (same applies to some hospital cachets and censor's sealing stickers, initially used in Wallachia); could be that this marking was struck onto the items at the time of their dispatch to Russia.

4. Contrary to what seems to be Mr. Rothman's opinion on similar items, I am confident to say that the documents examined did not reach occupied Romania and, from what I know, they were not meant to; the Red Cross was supposed to relay only the messages contained in the missives but not the actual pieces of mail. There is ample evidence for this, such as the address, the requests to "transmit the contents," the large number of postcards in the West (please note that items 'r', 's' and 't' are written by the same individual, the messages destined to three different persons; I found the postcards, among the majority of the others in a dealer's stock) and, of course, the lack of any postal evidence of arrival to occupied Romania. As to the way all these pieces of mail reached our sort of market, the explanation seems to be given by the boxed purple cachet, at the lower right hand corner of the illustrated envelope: Vendu par L'AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE, this agency being a branch of the Red Cross; indeed, one of the leading local dealers in postal history informed me that the Red Cross sold such material after the first world war (and after the second, for that matter.)

5. Evidence of possible arrival to occupied Romania could also be indicated by the presence of a German censor mark on the piece of mail; item 'w' displays one of these, belonging to the category known to have been in use: violet two-line GEPRUFT/Postuberwachungsstelle (meaning EXAMINED/Mail control station). Unfortunately, the date is not shown. Additional material of this sort need be examined in order to arrive to some conculsions; I just wish, in this instance, to point out the Russian censor marks and the red crayon line, across the address to Switzerland. The message was meant to be transmitted to Brailita. It should be mentioned here that examples of mail from occupied Moldavia to the occupied parts, transmitted apparently directly, do exist, for instance I have a postcard written on 19 April 1918, sent from Negresti, jud.Vaslui (Moldavia) to Murfatlar (Dobrudja), showing, additionally to Rumanian markings, also a censor's cachet used by the Bulgarians, together with their occupation handstamp for Mangalia; the German censor mark, of the above type, this time struck in black, is dated 21 May 1918. I can only speculate as to the method this document crossed from one territory to the other; collectors, especially in Romania, could be, of course, helpful by elaborating this particular aspect of the story.

6. I could not detect the significance, if any, of the occasionally occurring coloured strikes.

7. I could not relate the numerals - on account of colour or shade of ink, whether black or otherwise - to any other markings, be these postal or censors'; nor could I establish the reason of these numeral handstamps being applied. However, it is considered worth mentioning that postcards showing identical numerals, struck in the same month, also show the BIROUL DE CENSURA MILITARA etc. marking applied invariably on identical dates, see items 'g' 'h', 'n' 'o', 'r' 's' 't' 'u', 'z' 'aa', 'ab' 'ac' 'ad', 'af' 'ag', 'ah' 'ai'. Nevertheless, this fact does not work the other way around, see table.

Finally, a few words about the Russian censor marks I encountered upon the examined material, all struck in violet ink:

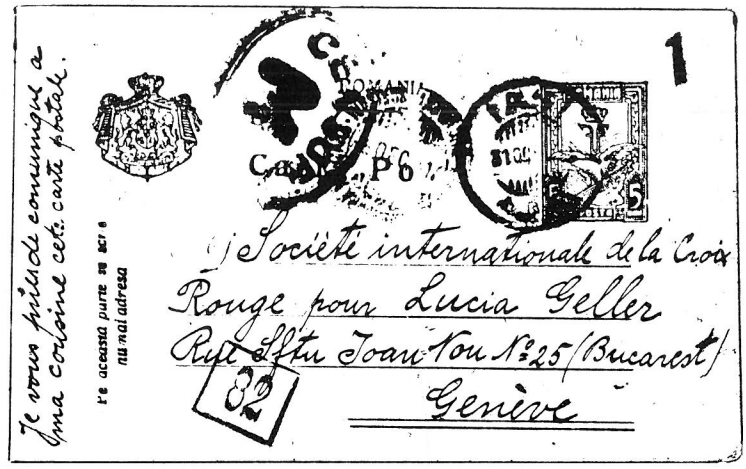
(a) Boxed numerals 61, 81 and 82, being censor's numbers.

(b) Two line cachet, in rectangular frame, the partly abbreviated text translates "Opened by military censor No. . . . " (two numerals noted, 199 and 1417); in spite of the illogical expression ("opened"), cachets with essentially identical inscriptions are known to have been used by the Russians on postcards. On a few of the strikes, on the bottom line, the second and third out of, very likely, three initials are visible: V (in Russian) and O, being the abbreviations of Voenniy Okrug, meaning Military District; as some of these districts, as shown on similar cachets, were found to be named after the relevant towns, such as Minsk, Odessa, it is not unreasonable to assume that the first initial is a Russian P, for Petrograd. This assumption could be further substantiated by the postmarks of this locality appearing occasionally on the same postcards and by the fact that identical cachets, used at Petrograd military district, are on record.

It seems to be of importance to communicate all the above details, possibly tedious to a certain degree, just in case of assistance to somebody willing to try to complete the story.

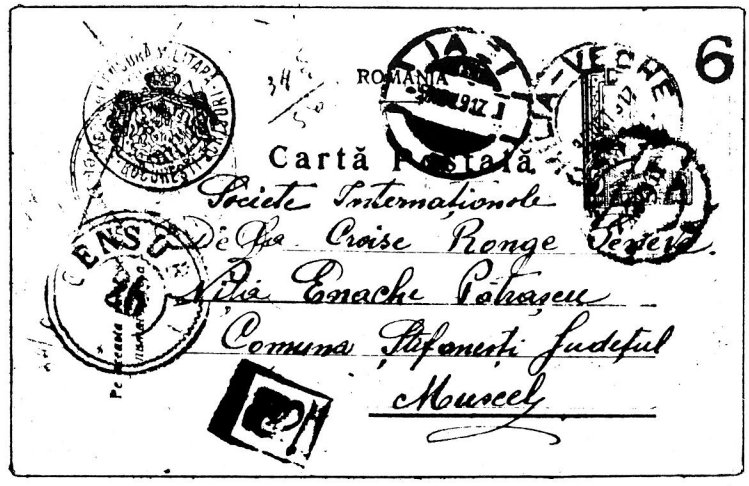
Item reference	Origin: C=civilian M=military	Earliest Iasi or other postmark	Iasi postmark dated:	Numeral marking	Romanian censor mark	Biroul de censura militara, etc. dated:
a	M		31 Oct (917)	1	Oval, M	(?) Dec 917
b	?		31 Oct? (917)	1	Oval, M	(?) Dec? 917
c	C	(BAR) LAD 30 Oct 917	1 Nov 917	2	Oval, M	5 Dec 917
d	C	STEFANESCI 23 Oct (917)	1 Nov 917 (verso)	2	Oval	
e	M		2 Nov 917	3	Round, 26	(?) Dec 917
f	M		2 Nov 917	3	Oval, M	9 Dec 917
g	M	IASSI/GARA 2 Nov 917	3 Nov 917	4	Round, 11 red	11 Dec 917
h	?	GALATI/CURSA III 31 Oct 917	3 Nov 917	4	Round, 11	11 Dec 917
i	M	CHILIA-VECHE 30 Oct 917	5 Nov 917	6	Round, 26	(?) Dec 917
j	C		6 Nov 917	7	Round, 26	13 Dec 917
k	C		8 Nov 917	9	Round, 2 (?)	14 Dec 917
l	M	TERGU-FRUMOS 7 Nov 917		10	Round, 26	14 Dec 917
m	M		11 Nov 917	12	Round, (??)	15 Dec 917
n	C	IASSI/GARA 11 Oct 917	12 Oct 917	13	Oval, S	15 Nov 917
o	C/M	OFIC.TEL. POSTAL MILITAR/CORP. III ARM. 10 Nov 917	12 Nov 917	13	Round, 11	15 Nov 917
p	M	BOTOSANi 9 Dec 917	13 Dec 917	14	Round, 11	19 Jan 918
q	M		14 Nov 917	15	Round, 11	2 (?) Nov? (917)
r	?		15 Nov 917	16	Round, 26	20 Dec 917
s	?		15 Nov 917	16	Round, 26	20 Dec 917
t	?		15 Nov 917	16	Round, 26	20 Dec 917
u	M		15 Nov 917	16	CENZURAT DIV. . .	20 Dec 917
v	C	CRISTESTI/JUD. SUCEAVA (?) Sep (917) PASCANI (?) Sep 917	16 Sep 917	17 red	Oval, S	17 Oct 917 red
w	M	VASLUI/CURSA (?) 14 Oct 917	16 Oct (917)	17	Oval, S	18 Nov 917
x	C	HUSI 16 Oct 917		19	Oval, S	22 Nov (917)
y	?	BARLAD 17 Oct 917		20	Oval, S	(?) 3 Nov 917
z	M	BARLAD (?) (?) (917)	20 Sep 917	21 red	Oval, S	22 Oct 917
aa	M		20 Sep 917	21 red	Oval, S	22 Oct 917
ab	M		22 Oct 917	23	Round, 16	4 Nov (917)
ac	C	HUSI 20 Oct 917	22 Oct 917	23 red	Round, 16	4 Nov 917
ad	M		22 Oct 917	23 red	Round, 16? red	4 Nov 917
ae	M		25 Oct 917	26	Oval, S	(?) Nov 917
af	C	GALATI/CURSA (?) (?) Nov 917	25 Nov 917	26	Oval, M	28 Dec 917
ag	M		25 Nov 917	26	Round, 26	28 Dec 917
ah	M	OFIC. TEL. POSTAL DIVIZIA I 23 Oct 917	27 Oct 917	28	Oval DIVIZIA I CENZURAT. . . Oval, S	29 Nov 917
ai	M		27 Oct 917	28	Oval, S	29 Nov 917
aj	M		2 (?) (?) (917)	29	Oval, M	3 Dec 917
ak	M		30 Oct 917	31	Round, 26	5 Dec 917

Petrograd postmark dated:	Russian censor mark	Remarks
	Boxed 82	
		Illustr. in Filatelia 3/1977
		The cover shows cachets of the Romanian and Swedish Red Cross
25-3-18	Box 81	
25-3-18 (verso)	Box 81 (verso)	
		In dealer's stock
	Boxed 82	Purple cachet: ROMANIA Pretoratul Deltei Dunarii and coat of arms
3-12-17		
21-12-17	Boxed 81	
25-3-18		
21-12-17		
25-3-18	Boxed 81 Rectang.	
7-12-17	Boxed 82	
	Rectang.	
2 (?)-12-17	Boxed 82	
7-12-17		
(?)-12-17		Written from hospital, Barlad
(?)-12-17		Written from hospital, Barlad
(?)-(?)-(?)		Written from hospital, Barlad
18-12-17	Boxed 82	In dealer's stock
	Rectang., Boxed 61	Undated German censor mark
	Rectang.	Message to be forwarded to Hungary
25-3-18	Boxed 82 Rectang.	Written from hospital
21-10-17	Rectang.	
21-10-17	Box 61	In dealer's stock
(?) (?)-17	Boxed 82	
10-11-17		Illustr. in Bulletin 4/1978
17-11-17		
		In dealer's stock
	Boxed 82	
	Boxed 82	


1
Je vous prie de communiquer à ma famille cet. carte postale.
Cartă Poștală
Société internationale de la Croix Rouge pour Lucia Geller
Rue Stefan Joan Tou N:o 25 (Bucarest)
Genève

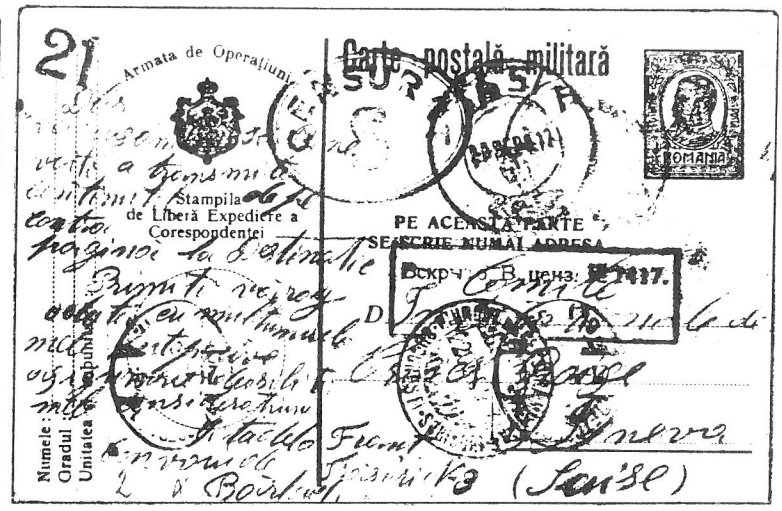
Item 'a' Numeral 1 follows the date of 31 October on the Iasi postmark.

Item 'ak' Numeral 31 (highest possible number) follows the date of 30 October on the Iasi postmark.

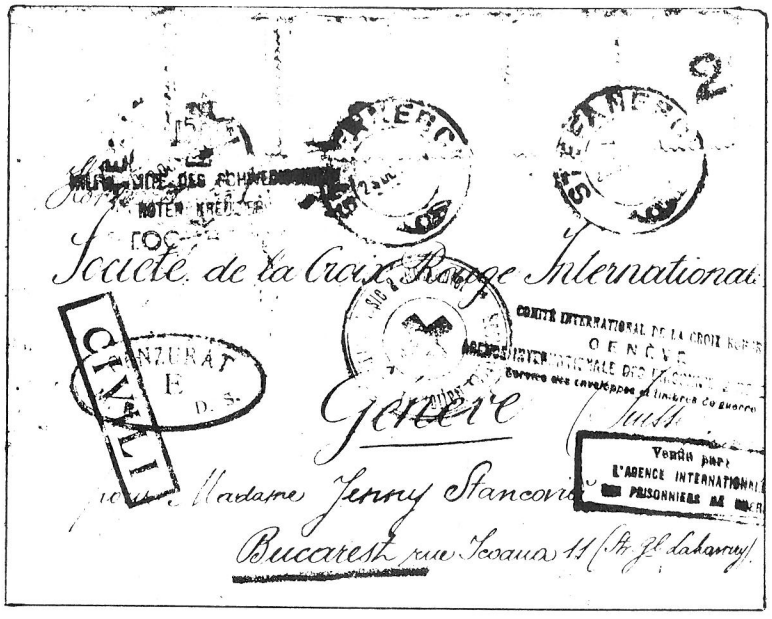


Item 'i' Numeral 6 follows the date of 5 November on the Iasi postmark and not the date of 30 October on the Chilia-Veche postmark.

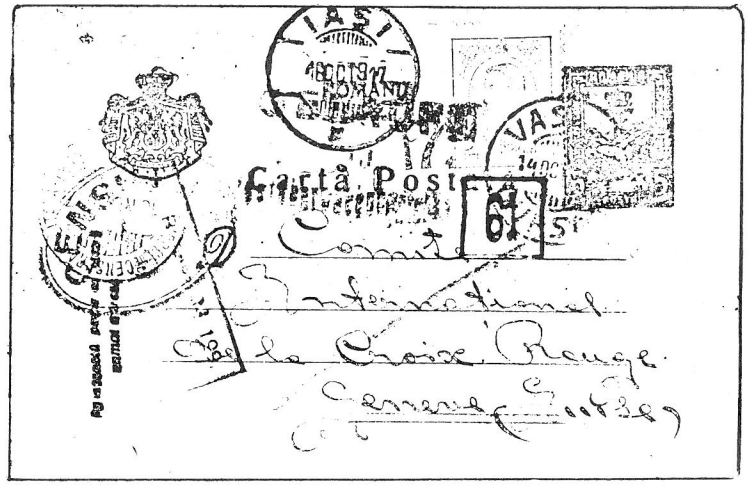
Item 'n' Numeral 13 follows the date of 12 October on the latest of the two Iasi postmarks.



Item 'z' Written text at the top left: "Gentlemen we beg you to kindly transmit the contents from overleaf to destination." Note also the marking of forwarding office No. 6, Petrograd and the Russian censor cachet.



Item 'd' Note cachet at lower right.



Item 'w' Note two Russian and one German censor marks, also red crayon stroke across address.

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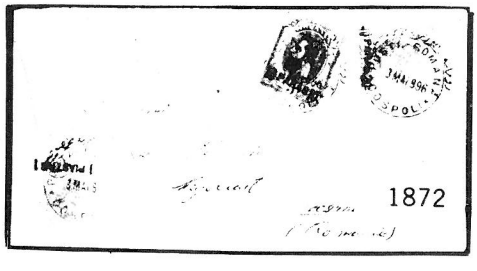

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Perforation Varieties of the Carol II (without POSTA) Definitive Issue

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It is interesting to follow the listing history of totally imperforate varieties of the 1934 definitive issue (Scott 436-439). While first noted in the 1967 edition of Rompresfilatelia's price list for only two values, they are listed for four stamps in the 1971 edition. The 1974 edition again lists four values, but the 1975 and the 1977 editions return to the original exclusion of two items.

The 1964 edition of the Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue states (page 80) that the 2 and 4 Lei values (Scott 437, 438) were not issued as imperforate varieties. The 1974 edition, without any remark, only lists the 50 Bani and 6 Lei values (Scott 436, 439) imperforate. Scott also notes only the 50 Bani and 6 Lei imperforates.

From all this seemingly contradictory information, the most logical conclusion is that the 2 and 4 Lei values doe not exist as imperforates, and that the 1971-4 editions of Rompresfilatelia's price list were mistaken in cataloguing a set of four imperforates.

In a recent discussion, however, a well known Romanian stamp dealer, who was in business between the two World Wars, mentioned handling complete imperforate sets. Between 1941-42, he supposedly sold to a foreign customer two such sets, some values in pairs, and others with very large margins. There are also numerous Romanian philatelists who claim they have seen imperforate 2 and 4 Lei stamps abroad. Additionally, an advertisement run in a Western philatelic publication, offered for sale the imperforate 2 and 4 Lei. Accompanying this ad was the note: "unknown in Romania."

It would be useful at this point to make a listing of known genuine perforation varieties:

Fig. 1: A vertical pair of the 50 Bani (Scott 436), imperforate between.

Fig. 2: a vertical pair of the 4 Lei (Scott 438), imperforate between.

Fig. 3: a 6 Lei (Scott 439) value, with a very wide and imperforate lower margin (in-large).

Note: The star on the illustrations of the 4 and 6 Lei stamps signifies that the particular item was not yet recorded in specialized philatelic literature.

All the aforementioned stamps came from my collection. I also have a 6 Lei stamp, imperforate at left. In the collection of Nicolae Motric, a known Romanian actor and director, pairs of the 6 Lei value, imperforate between, can be found.

All these different imperforate items tend to raise the question of whether similar items (with incomplete perforation) can be found for the 2 Lei (Scott 437) value. It is apparent that is the 2 and 4 Lei totally imperforate stamps do indeed exist, their philatelic importance and rarity is great. They would stand out from the other 1930-1940 sets, whose imperforate varieties average a printing of 200.

Totally perforated items (of the 2 and 4 Lei values) could in reality be partially perforated stamps - as the ones described above - with the rest of the perforation trimmed off. This supposition is supported by the repeated appearance on the market of imperforate items of the "Luna Bucurestilor" (Bucharest Month) 1938 issue (Scott B 82) which as reported in the philatelic press of the time were made "imperforates" by trimming the perforation from large right margines.

The presumption made in this article can be verified as new material comes to light. Until positive confirmation of the existence of totally imperforate varieties is obtained, the potential buyer of such should keep in mind the present article and beware.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

A Perforation Error of the King Michael 0.50 Lei Definitive

George Pataki

Seymour Gibrick (c/o Mr. Covers, P.O. Box 48692, Los Angeles, Calif. 90048) reports a perforation error of the King Michael, 0.50 Lei, gray blue. This stamp, the lowest value of a set of 14, was printed in 2,000,000 copies in March 1945 and is normally perforated 14½:14. The Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue of 1974 mentions the existence of 0.50 Lei stamps perforated 14½:13½, giving them a price multiplier of 30, for their rarity. The horizontal pair presented by Mr. Gibrick has the rare 14½:13½ perforation, is mint, and, what is most important it is imperforated vertically between the two stamps.

Scott does not list any errors for this stamp (#568), neither does Zumstein (#1052), Sassone (#785), Gibbons, Michel, Yvert or Minkus. "Catalogul Marcilor Postale Romanesti, 1964" (Romanian Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1964) is the only one which mentions (page 92) the existence of such horizontal pairs, imperforated vertically.

The latest issue of the Romanian catalogue (1974) does not list this error, probably by omission. The prove presented by Mr. Gibrick should convince the editors of specialized catalogues to list it properly.

REVIEW: **"AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN A.P.O.'s 1914-1918"** by Keith Tramner, (Published by Author, 1973, fully illustrated with photographs, soft cover, 115 pp. Price $17.95, --available from: Theo. Van Dam, Box 26, Brewster NY 10509

This well written and thoroughly researched volume on the Postal History of the Austro-Hungarian Forces in World War I, is still the most significant reference book on this interesting subject.

First there is a comprehensive classification of the various postal markings by type, followed by a numerical listing (No's 2 - 1220IIa) of the Army Post Office ("A.P.O.'s"), giving type approximate time of usage and in many cases unit designations and locations, followed by a "point" valuation. Several of these "A.P.O.'s" operated in Romania at some time.

Other chapters discuss in great detail, amongst other subjects, the Siege of Przemysl, POW Camps, TPO's, Air Force Units, as well as the stamps and postal stationery used by these Forces. Of special interest to our readers should be the chapter on Foreign Legions, which mentions the Romanian troops.

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Mixed Franking In Moldavia and Walachia

By DR. NICOLAE TRIPCOVICI
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In Moldavia as in Walachia, local posts providing service to the public were organized at the end of the 18th century to transport passengers, cash, and both official and private correspondence. Previously "official business" postal services had been performed by government couriers.

At first the postal services were leased to private operators, with specific routes assigned for limited periods. The services were regulated by a set of contractual rules regarding routes, number of runs, supply of horses, coaches, riders, etc. In mid-19th century the posts came under public administration, ending the leasing system.

During both of these periods the Romanian Principalities had no postal agreements with neighboring countries, and mail to and from other countries was handled by foreign posts established in Bucharest and Jassy and later in a few other cities.

Overland mail from other countries usually was received in Bucharest and Jassy while Galatz and Braila received mail by sea. Mail addressed to other localities was forwarded through the Romanian posts. Besides these, in some Danubian ports agencies of the Austrian Danube Steamship Navigation Company (D.D.S.G.) for a time operated an international mail service.

Within the territories of the two principalities postal service was provided by the Romanian posts. The only exception occurred during the Crimean War, when the Austrian militiary field posts took over the services of the Austrian consular posts and handled private mail between the cities these operated in.

Before the founding of the Universal Postal Union (of which Romania was one of the first 17 members) letters to be mailed abroad had to be posted at consular offices or sent to them by Romanian post. Letters arriving from abroad had to be claimed at these offices by the addresses or forwarded by Romanian post. Since there were no international postal agreements, letters franked in foreign countries could not be prepared to their final destination. Services rendered by the Moldavian or Walachian posts had to be paid for separately. The situation with letters sent abroad was similar. The entire postage fee could not be paid at the mailing point since a separate payment was required for services rendered by each postal administration.

Letters both to and from foreign countries are known with mixed frankings. Similar systems were used in Greece, where additional frankings used the "Large Hermes Head" stamps and in Russia where letters from abroad were forwarded to their final destination by Zemstvo local posts.

We present two covers with mixed frankings, both in the collection of Fritz Heimbuchler of Munich, West Germany, which has received several gold medal awards at international exhibitions.

The first (Figure 1) has been mentioned in **Romanian Philatelic Studies**[1] but not described in detail nor illustrated. It was posted in Vienna on July 25 as registered mail (RECOMMANDIRT) franked with a 10 kreuzer Austrian stamp, and addressed to Vaslui in Moldavia. Its arrival at Jassy was noted by application of the Austrian consular post office cancel on July 30. From Jassy it was forwarded by the Moldavian post, again registered (RECEPISSE), and franked by two 40 parale stamps of the second issue Moldavian "Bull's Head" set.

The second (Figure 2), mailed Sept. 2, 1864 to Galati by the Austrian consular post in Constantinople, registered (RECOM) and franked by three 10 soldi Austrian Levant stamps. On its arrival on Sept. 6 the Austrian consular post applied its double circle cancel and the next day again applied the cancel as a departure marking. The letter was forwarded by Romanian posts to the addressee in Birlad. The fee for the Galati-Birlad leg was paid with two 30 parale United Principalities stamps, which happen to be the rare tete-beche pair of the 1862 "manually printed" issue. These stamps were obliterated with the double circle "GALATZ MOLDOVA" cancellation dated 27/8 (Aug. 27). The apparent discrepancy between the departure and arrival dates occurs because of the use of two different calendars, the Gregorian and the Julian.

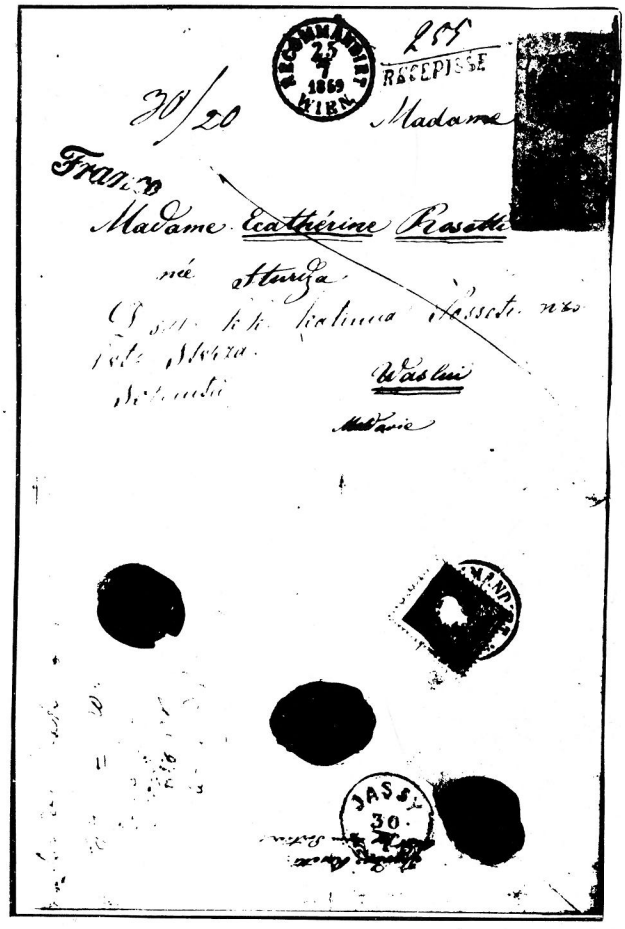

Figure 1

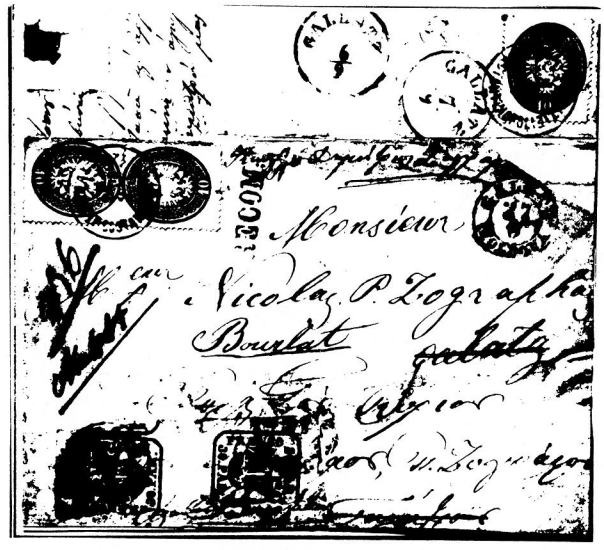

Figure 2

Activities of the consular post offices in Romania ceased on March 31, 1869, ending an interesting chapter in Romanian postal history.

1. No. 4/1978, "On Foreign Posts in Moldavia and Walachia," by Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici.

Dr. Nicolae Tripcovici is perhaps the No. 1 specialist in Romania. He was for years editor of the Romanian philatelic magazine Filatelia, *and has been a member of many international juries.*

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